

# SigEp Journal

Sigma Phi Epsilon  
FALL 2015

Outgoing Grand  
President  
Phillip A. Cox  
joins Order of the  
Golden Heart,  
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## “SigEp needs heroes”

Delegates vote to adopt Balanced  
Man Program for all chapters  
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Conclave giving builds new  
endowment for volunteers  
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Part II  
page 34





Rick Bennet, Central Missouri '74, is a former SigEp regional director, chapter volunteer and Grand Secretary. He served 10 years on the Fraternity's National Board of Directors prior to being elected Grand President at the 2015 Conclave. Bennet is a longtime donor and an annual sponsor of Ruck Scholars.

Bennet is co-chief executive officer of CCA Global Partners, a cooperative serving over 2,500 independent retail businesses. Prior to joining CCA, Bennet spent 27 years with the May Department Stores, where he served as president and CEO of Famous Barr Department Stores in St. Louis, president and CEO of Kaufmann's in Pittsburgh, and vice-chairman of May. He is a Sigma Phi Epsilon Citation recipient and resides in St. Louis with his wife, Lavonne. They have three children.

## Moving from prominence to leadership

We have always said, "This Fraternity will be different," but at no other time in our history has that mandate been more important than right now. Today, the value of the Greek system is being questioned and the sustainability of what we do is at risk. We can no longer be satisfied with setting our sights on merely being the best fraternity in a Greek system that is deteriorating around us.

Our priority must then be to grow SigEp into the best among all campus organizations, not just fraternities.

We are uniquely positioned to do this. Our Balanced Man Program brings structure and support to the time spent outside the classroom. Our regional and national programs powerfully complement universities' academic curricula. Our men receive personal and professional mentoring from thousands of committed SigEp volunteers, and our chapters serve as laboratories for applying and practicing what SigEps learn throughout their college experience.

I dream of a time when every university wants a SigEp chapter because they recognize the value we add to their communities. **We have celebrated our place as the leading college fraternity, and now we must work together to make SigEp the leader of all campus organizations.**

Our undergraduate brothers made important progress toward that goal when they voted at Conclave in August to recognize the Balanced Man Program as our official and only member development model. It is our brand and now we can fully leverage it, but there is so much more to be done.

Over the next two years, we will focus on supporting chapter and volunteer leaders as



Bennet addresses the Grand Chapter at the 2015 Conclave's Balanced Man Celebration.

they improve the execution of the Balanced Man Program on their campuses. We will prioritize investment in student housing and our Residential Learning Communities. And we will embark on a comprehensive fundraising campaign to expand and endow the programs that provide transformative experiences for our young brothers.

As a brotherhood, we must do this together. Reflecting on the road ahead, I am reminded of the words of beloved Past Grand President Bedford W. Black, Wake Forest '41, who often said, "If it is to be, it is up to me." We are working toward important goals for our undergraduates and for our Fraternity. Moving forward, his words ring in my ears—I hope they ring in yours as well.

Fraternally,

**RICK BENNET**  
Grand President



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Grand Treasurer Chris Bittman, Colorado '85, embraced lifelong friend and outgoing Grand President Phillip A. Cox, Indiana '84, after presenting Cox with the Order of the Golden Heart medalion. See page 10.



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This issue of the Journal shares some of the most memorable stories from SigEp's 54th Grand Chapter Conclave. Though the biennial gathering lasted just five days, the progress achieved and accomplishments celebrated in Nashville, Tenn., represent years of hard work and unyielding devotion.

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Fall 2015 Issue • Volume 113, Number 1  
sigep.org • (804) 353-1901

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The SigEp Journal is published by Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity for alumni, volunteers, undergraduate members, parents and other supporters of the Fraternity.

Published continuously since 1904, the Journal is issued twice a year. To maintain your subscription, please keep your address current at [www.sigep.org/update](http://www.sigep.org/update) or email address changes to [address.update@sigep.net](mailto:address.update@sigep.net).

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The Journal welcomes all submissions sent to [communications@sigep.net](mailto:communications@sigep.net) or to Journal Editor, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Va. 23220.

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| 2015 WINTER COLLECTION





The summer 2015 issue featured a string of stories about chapters taking aggressive, values-focused action on issues impacting universities and Greek organizations.

## Hitting the issues head on, summer Journal appreciated

Dear Journal Editor,

A breeze of fresh air arrived in my mail yesterday: the summer 2015 issue of the SigEp Journal. At first, I put the Journal aside in the "to read" file. I assumed it would contain familiar stories of successful SigEps. But then I read it. All of it! Now, let me tell you why this issue had such an impact on me.

I was a member of the Oregon Alpha Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon from 1946-1950, 10 years before the SigEp social "revolution" of 1959. As an undergraduate, I became disillusioned with the white, Christian membership standards of the Fraternity. My feelings were strongly expressed both at the university and with the SigEp chapter, where they were disdained by some and supported by others.

In my senior year, I formally proposed both a Jewish and black friend as pledges. My proposal was turned down by my brothers; and as a symbolic objection, I did not eat in the house in my last term.

The black student I had recommended was William Maxwell, who later obtained a doctorate from Harvard and is now an internationally renowned educator.

When I opened the recent Journal, I was genuinely surprised and pleased to find a description of the (often unknown—or at least, not spoken of) internal fight in the Fraternity about racism, creedism, religious exclusionism and hazing. I was also pleased to see the reference to "anti-homophobia" positions taken by certain chapters and the moving story about the cowardly, evil and blatant sexual assault problem. And finally, I read the hard, cold, clean words of brother Max Fowler in "The Truth About Pledging" article.

The Fraternity should be proud to have promoted these stories. Congratulations!

Cordially and Fraternally,

**ROBERT J. NISSEN**  
Oregon State '50

## Clinton cites chapter's sexual assault prevention work as model

The summer 2015 Journal profiled SigEp chapters combatting sexual assault on their campuses. Since then, the Northern Iowa Chapter was cited by Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton as offering a model for sexual assault prevention.

Clinton visited the Northern Iowa campus on September 14, 2015, to present a policy agenda aimed at addressing sexual assault on college campuses and met with Northern Iowa's chapter president, Alex Stepanek, '16. In her

address, Clinton praised the SigEp chapter for their campus-wide sexual assault prevention efforts.

"This particular fraternity has really emphasized education and prevention, and I want to know what works, and according to the university, this is working," Clinton told the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier. "It may be currently the exception, but how do we make it the rule?"

Chapter members of all political affiliations were motivated by the former secretary of state's praise and hope their efforts will serve as a model for universities nationwide.



Clinton praised SigEp's Northern Iowa Chapter for its work in combating campus sexual assaults. On campus to present a platform for sexual assault prevention, she met with Chapter President Alex Stepanek, '16.



## Story of dormant chapter strikes a chord

Dear Editor,

Last fall's Journal story about Bentley alumni connecting even after the chapter's closure struck a very familiar chord with me. My beloved Parsons College was founded in 1875. Unfortunately, its doors were closed because of bankruptcy in 1973.

When I enrolled at Parsons in the fall of 1951, I joined a local fraternity called Zeta Theta Gamma. In the spring of 1955, my senior year, we became the Iowa Zeta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Our chapter's camaraderie, brotherhood and spirit of unity prevailed at Parsons and continued until the school's demise. Still, the lasting friendships and memories are never forgotten.

Since 2000, Iowa Zeta alumni have held reunions every two years, with the next

one planned for 2016. Although our numbers are decreasing, those who are able still make the trek to renew acquaintances. The heartache of the school's closure never goes away, but the spirit of Parsons is still deeply engrained in our souls. The college and its excellent professors helped us all prepare to navigate through life and now retirement.

It is so sad that our college's name can no longer be listed in reports of active chapters. Still, we have our memories and wish nothing but continued success to all SigEp chapters that continue to thrive.

**LEELAND KANE**  
Parsons '55

## Observing brotherhood

I had a great time learning about SigEp as your Conclave photographer. I just wanted to grab those guys and tell them all how lucky they were to be a part of an organization that develops them into great men. My mother had a stroke when I was 11; and with no brothers, sisters or father, it was up

to me to take care of her. My college education had to wait until I was in my late 20s. So, for a short time, I felt kind of like a part of something that I missed out on when I was young. Thanks for that!

**TERRY WYATT**

See Wyatt's 2015 Conclave photos throughout this issue and at [flickr.com/sigmaphiepsilon](https://www.flickr.com/photos/sigmaphiepsilon/)



First Officer Will Young, North Dakota '12, was thrilled to learn that brothers returning from Conclave were aboard a recent flight. His chapter has produced numerous SigEp pilots and air traffic controllers over the years.

## SigEp pilot flies delegates home from Conclave

I am a pilot for SkyWest Airlines, a regional partner for Delta. On Sunday morning, August 16, 2015, I was in Nashville for work and was very humbled when I learned that several brothers were on board. They were coming home from Conclave and traveling back to their respective chapters throughout the Midwest. I attended Conclave in 2011 and remember what a great experience it was.

Once we took off, I got on the PA and made an announcement welcoming my fellow brothers on board. It was a really special flight for me knowing I held the lives of my brothers in my hands.

**WILL YOUNG**  
North Dakota '12



# Save the Date

## December 2015

### Pittsburgh 25th Anniversary of Rechartering

Pittsburgh, Penn. .... 12/12  
Contact: rick.sr6716@gmail.com

## January 2016

### George Mason SigEp Day at the Washington Capitals

Washington, D.C. .... 1/17  
Contact: brandth605@aol.com

## February 2016

### SIU-Edwardsville Arete Awards Dinner

Edwardsville, Ill. .... 2/6  
Contact: Lward47@charter.net

### Nevada-Reno Alumni Poker Tournament

Reno, Nev. .... 2/13  
Contact: events@nvalpha.org

### South Dakota State Founders Day

Brookings, S.D. .... 2/13  
Contact: lambert\_tml@yahoo.com

### Tennessee Planning Retreat

Townsend, Tenn. .... 2/19-21  
Contact: utvols1995@comcast.net

## March 2016

### Florida 1980s Alumni Reunion

Gainesville, Fla. .... 3/18-20  
Contact: dan@probstlaw.com

## April 2016

### Rochester 30th Anniversary

Rochester, N.Y. .... 4/1-3  
Contact: bjorn.ahbel@gmail.com

### Fort Hays State Groundbreaking for On-Campus Home

Hays, Kan. .... 4/2  
Contact: Williby.Jason@gmail.com

### Nevado-Reno Alumni vs. Undergraduates Softball Game

Reno, Nev. .... 4/3  
Contact: events@nvalpha.org

### Texas-Arlington 42nd Tri-State Softball Tournament

Arlington, Texas .... 4/9  
Contact: marcocampa890@gmail.com

### Oklahoma State Alumni Weekend

Stillwater, Okla. .... 4/16-17  
Contact: vishnhp@ostateemail.okstate.edu

### Tennessee Founders Day Weekend

Knoxville, Tenn. .... 4/22-24  
Contact: utvols1995@comcast.net

### Austin Peay State 25th Anniversary

Clarksville, Tenn. .... 4/23  
Contact: jshirley1901@yahoo.com

### Massachusetts Founders Day Luncheon

Amherst, Mass. .... 4/23  
Contact: sigepmassalpha@gmail.com

### California-Santa Barbara Alumni Weekend

Goleta, Calif. .... 4/29-5/1  
Contact: aaron.lavine@gmail.com

### Thiel Scholarship Golf Outing

Greenville, Penn. .... 4/30  
Contact: pjmilller3@verizon.net

## May 2016

### George Mason Scholarship Golf Classic

Chantilly, Va. .... 5/6  
Contact: brandth605@aol.com

## June 2016

### Dartmouth Reunion

Hanover, N.H. .... 6/16-19  
www.DartmouthSigEp.com

## August 2016

### Nevada-Reno 8th Annual Alumni Balanced Man Scholarship Golf Tournament

Sparks, Nev. .... 8/6  
Contact: events@nvalpha.org





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## The Cornerstone Award

By TYVA TURNER

Great architecture and thoughtful design can change the way we see ourselves. These elements can inspire us and elevate the expectation for achievement. The ideal SigEp chapter home does just that.

Consider the fact that the typical student spends 90 percent of his college experience outside a formal classroom setting, and the importance of an exceptional living-learning environment becomes even clearer. Across the country, SigEp's Alumni and Volunteer Corporations ensure that chapter homes demand excellence through their design. Projects can vary from cosmetic updates to major renovations, from safety upgrades to new construction. What remains consistent is the hard work, thoughtful approach and brotherly love that goes into maintaining homes capable of developing high-achieving balanced men.

At the 54th Grand Chapter Conclave, SigEp National Housing recognized two AVCs for their dedication to facilities that provide brothers with a superior environment in which to live, learn and prepare for the journey of life ahead.

### "Fraternity house of the future" opens its doors at Cincinnati

As reported in the fall 2014 issue of the Journal, a solution for Cincinnati's aging house presented itself when the chapter's Alumni and Volunteer Corporation was able to purchase and expand onto adjacent land. Their expansion sought to provide a living-learning community that could rival all other student housing options, rather than simply making necessary upgrades.

The now-complete, 18,000-square-foot house not only provides the comforts of home, but also the optimal setting for blending academic and social pursuits. Members can study quietly in the house library or get together for group work in the Alumni Recognition Room. There is also a chapter room that doubles as a 150-seat classroom. University-accredited courses will be offered in the space each spring. SigEp faculty fellow and dean of the university's Clermont College, **Jeff Bauer, Wright State '88**, led the initial class last semester. Approximately 24 students enrolled in Bauer's microeconomics course, which was offered to SigEps and members of a select group of campus sororities.

AVC President **Rey Medina, Cincinnati '99**, said most of the first floor has been designated as study and classroom space. However, with nine wireless access points throughout the



The grand entryway of the recently renovated Ohio Theta RLC has become a favorite gathering spot for brothers. The home boasts a 150-seat classroom and hosts university courses each spring.

house, and high-speed Internet in all the bedrooms, any comfortable spot is a potential study area.

The resident scholar's living and office spaces can also be found on the first floor. Graduate student **John Georgeson, Cincinnati '15**, is the first resident scholar to call the new Ohio Theta facility home. One of his primary duties is to organize a speaker series for members. The fall 2015 series focused on study skills and was presented by Georgeson and SigEp faculty fellow **Ric Sweeney, Cincinnati Renaissance**.

In total, Ohio Theta has four faculty fellows who hold office hours at the house. Along with Bauer and Sweeney, they include **Paul Nodzak**, assistant professor of biological sciences, and **Scott Steger, Cincinnati '93**, academic adviser and assistant director of enrollment management. The faculty fellows make themselves available to provide academic guidance, and they frequently drop in to socialize and build relationships with brothers. Medina noted that informal mentoring relationships often develop as a result.

In addition to the opportunity to get to know faculty outside the classroom, Medina observed that the new house helps members socialize with each other more. The communal use of the new space can be seen in activities such as "Man Cave Mondays," when Georgeson hosts a chapter-wide study session in the basement. The house also boasts a weight room, and brothers schedule time weekly to work out as a group.

The entire expansion and renovation process took only seven months to finish from the time construction began. Such



outstanding results would not have been possible if not for the overwhelming alumni enthusiasm for the project and the AVC's well-run capital campaign. The drive brought in \$1.3 million, including a \$50,000 commitment from the undergraduate chapter. When the doors to the new Ohio Theta facility opened, alumni and volunteers realized their vision for a house that would be a place to both connect and grow intellectually.

## A new home and a new chapter for Virginia Tech



SigEp faculty fellows are busy developing curriculum for this future residential learning community at Virginia Tech. The \$5 million, three-story home approaches 20,000 square feet.

Alumni of SigEp's Virginia Tech Chapter know the importance of supporting a complete fraternity experience. With this goal in mind, volunteers set out to build a new \$5 million Residential Learning Community. Structural challenges made the chapter's previous house of more than 40 years, a converted five-bedroom residence in Blacksburg, Va., incapable of sufficient renovation. But as construction and fundraising got under way, alumni-volunteers were confronted with the harsh reality that the undergraduate chapter's culture had also deteriorated beyond repair.

In May 2013, the Virginia Kappa Chapter closed for the first time in its history.

Alumni set their focus on building a new chapter culture suited for the new facility. The AVC immediately went to work preparing for the chapter's fall 2015 return, and the capital fundraising campaign continued as alumni further increased their investment.

AVC members also wanted to make sure the ideals of scholarship and personal growth would be practiced in the home. Fundraising Campaign Chairman **John Lawson, Virginia Tech '75**, said the group researched the latest teaching and residential learning concepts. He and fellow volunteer **Don McNamara, Virginia Tech '75**, helped spearhead the AVC's initial partnership with the university and worked diligently to strengthen it over the past two years.

Alumni-volunteers spent countless hours on campus and recruited three faculty fellows from the Myers-Lawson School of Construction: Brian Kleiner, the school's director, and construction engineering professors Bob Muir and Josh Iorio. AVC housing director **William Thomas Jr., Virginia Tech '72**, said the faculty members will be fixtures in the life of the chapter. They are spending time getting to know members and developing curriculum for the Residential Learning Community (they plan to apply for accreditation in 2017). Later, they'll hold classes in the house and support the chapter's Balanced Man Program with input from Virginia Tech's director of leadership education, Heather Evans.

For now, the chapter uses the house for some chapter and AVC meetings as well as some recruitment events. When the recolonization process is complete, the chapter will return to a house that provides distinct areas for living, learning

and socializing. The three-story home approaches 20,000 square feet and contains approximately 6,800 square feet of communal space.

Flexibility is a key part of the facility's design. For instance, the chapter meeting room contains a drop-down screen and projector system that can be utilized in a classroom setting. The same room can be converted into a dining room for special events. Classes can also be held in the facility's conference and recreation rooms, while a library and quiet study rooms double as spaces for smaller seminars. Brothers will also benefit from live-in mentors, as the space provides housing for both a resident scholar and a full-time house director who will oversee day-to-day property management.

The university provided two-thirds of the construction costs, and alumni have committed \$1.7 million. The goal is to push well past \$2 million and use additional funds to support scholarship and academic programming. At Conclave, the Virginia Kappa AVC was celebrated for their outstanding accomplishments in the face of adversity and their unwavering commitment to the highest ideals of the Fraternity.

**"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life."**

~ Plato



# Alumni and Volunteer News

The college years provide young SigEps with the moral compass and critical experiences that inform life decisions and expand personal abilities. As brothers set out after graduation, each day brings new opportunities and challenges. Priorities are established, daily decisions add up and the narrative of a life is written.

With more than 300,000 alumni, there are countless stories of SigEp men who have devoted their entire adult lives to ideals cemented during the formative years of college. We celebrate their triumphs and extraordinary contributions in chapter newsletters and on homecoming weekends, in the pages of this Journal and at national gatherings. Above all accolades, two awards stand out. At the biennial Grand Chapter Conclave, the Sigma Phi Epsilon Citation and the Order of the Golden Heart are presented on the Fraternity's largest stage.

**THE CITATION** is bestowed upon alumni who have achieved extraordinary success and stature in their chosen professions. Since the award was first presented in 1965, only 244 have received the honor. Among them are global leaders, titans of industry and commerce, renowned authors and artists, civil servants, military heroes, award-winning actors, and all-star athletes.

**THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN HEART** is the Fraternity's highest honor. Its members have made a unique and measurable impact on the SigEp experience through a lifetime of service, often at great personal sacrifice. Conceived by Past Grand President Bedford W. Black, Wake Forest '41, the gold medallion was first awarded at the 1959 Conclave. Only 155 SigEp alumni have received this great honor, and members join a lineage of inductees that begins with Founder William "Uncle Billy" Phillips, Richmond 1903.

Starting with the newest members of the Order of the Golden Heart, the pages that follow share the stories of nine men honored with these awards at the 54th Grand Chapter Conclave. Their life journeys and commitment to SigEp virtues serve as inspiration for us all.





When traveling for work, Cox has often called ahead to schedule dinner with brothers from nearby chapters. Visiting Minneapolis in September 2013, he spent time with the Minnesota Chapter's executive board.

## Phillip A. Cox

**Outgoing Grand President Phillip A. Cox, Indiana '84, has never shied away from helping brothers in need.** Following graduation, he served as a regional director and director of housing on SigEp's Headquarters staff. During that time, he learned of a chapter struggling under a mound of inherited debt and, despite his modest staff income, stepped up to support the group by personally paying their monthly utility bill.

Returning to Indiana, he took on roles as chapter counselor, president and treasurer for the Indiana Beta AVC while building a career in the investment management industry. In 1993, Cox became district governor for the state.

When he learned in the early 2000s that the Indiana Chapter's house was in danger of foreclosure, he once again sprang into action, rallying support from alumni. Along with several other committed brothers, Cox contributed his own money to save the property. When the chapter recolonized after a few years off campus, he personally guaranteed the facility's loan. Cox's faith in the brothers was rewarded in 2009 when Indiana became the very first SigEp chapter to charter as an accredited Residential Learning Community.

Cox has shown equal dedication and passion to building SigEp's volunteer infrastructure. As a National Director and chairman of SigEp's Volunteer Task Force, Cox was a leading voice regarding the needs of volunteers. He brought more volunteers into the fold and worked to make sure they had the support needed to carry out the many activities, big and small, that provide critical support for undergraduate brothers.

After being elected Grand President at the 2013 Dallas Conclave, Cox led the charge to expand the scope and quality of in-person volunteer education, launch new online education initiatives and hire a staff dedicated to supporting volunteers. From the Conclave stage, and in every board meeting that followed, his resolve was clear: SigEp would make volunteers a priority.

In fall 2014, Cox helped expand in-person volunteer education with a pilot program in five cities. Volunteers were able to address unique challenges faced by their chapters and build support networks within their region. Determined to ensure the availability and growth of these opportunities, Cox's brothers and friends established the Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute at the 2015 Conclave. In recognition of Cox's legacy, \$850,000 had been committed to the program's endowment as of October 1, 2015.

During the presentation of the Order of the Golden Heart, it was clear just how profound an impact Cox has had on members throughout the Fraternity.

Cox put his hand over his heart and smiled in appreciation as the Conclave assembly stood in applause. Though his voice wasn't at full strength, he whispered some words to his wife that she shared with the crowd: SigEp had given him so much. Despite being honored for his service to others, his thoughts were on all that he had received.

**"He who cares for his brother, cares for himself."**

~ Xenophon





# Edward “Skip” Dahlkamp and Robert L. Trovaten

**As an undergraduate recruitment chairman, Skip Dahlkamp, San Diego State '63, grew the California Delta Chapter from 13 members to 150 in just five semesters. He also ensured the long-term sustainability of the powerhouse chapter during his two terms as vice president.**

**Thanks to Dahlkamp, the chapter began attracting the best men on campus, men like Bob Trovaten, '67. Trovaten assumed several leadership roles, including president, and he stewarded the chapter to continued success.**

Eager to see California Delta continue to thrive, both Dahlkamp and Trovaten became volunteers immediately upon graduation. In 1967, they committed to working together to support their chapter, and the fulfillment of that promise has led to a combined 99 years of service. Not all of those years were easy. They saw each generation of brothers bring new challenges. But they faced those challenges head on, together.

In the late '90s, Dahlkamp and Trovaten were forced to confront a deteriorating chapter culture marked by hazing and a lack of undergraduate accountability. In 1997, the decision was made to close the chapter, but the pair doubled down on their 30-year investment in California Delta.

Dahlkamp and Trovaten worked to ensure that the dormant chapter's home remained in SigEp's hands while increasing alumni support. The property was the last remaining fraternity home at the center of campus, and they were eager to keep SigEp out of a new Greek village. They believed remaining close to campus, and away from other fraternities, would help a future chapter build and maintain an identity based on the Balanced Man Program. They also had plans to develop a Residential Learning Community and knew that proximity to faculty would be key.

During the chapter's dormant years, Dahlkamp kept alumni informed about their progress as he and Trovaten rebuilt the volunteer ranks. In 2000, they celebrated the chapter's return to campus with their fellow alumni-volunteers who had worked so hard to restore California Delta.

With an ever-expanding group of new SigEps on campus, Dahlkamp and Trovaten set out to renovate the chapter house that had sat vacant for four years. They launched a \$1.2 million capital campaign to revitalize the facility. Dahlkamp served as campaign chairman, while Trovaten managed the contractor and architect throughout the renovation. Both Dahlkamp and Trovaten committed their personal finances to the project, even co-signing the mortgage until the renovation was completed.

The finished home received accreditation as a Residential Learning Community, and an in-house classroom hosted a university course in leadership for brothers. The house also included a faculty office, new library and communal study space. The success of the project won the San Diego State AVC SigEp's Cornerstone Award at the 2013 Conclave.

Under Dahlkamp and Trovaten's leadership, California Delta has overcome significant obstacles to achieve great success. The chapter has won the school's Dean's Trophy for six years in a row and SigEp's Buchanan Cup at four of the last five Conclaves. After nearly five decades, the pair remains involved with the chapter, actively mentoring officers, supporting a growing RLC and bringing more alumni into the fold.

As Dahlkamp and Trovaten were inducted into the Order of the Golden Heart, they grasped each other by the hands, showing a sign of the brotherly love and support that has sustained their involvement since they were young men. "I would like to say 'thank you' to all of the great people that we have had the honor of meeting and working with over the time that we have spent with Sigma Phi Epsilon. It's a deep, deep, heartfelt thanks," Trovaten said, speaking for the pair on the Conclave stage.

**In 1967, they committed to working together to support their chapter, and the fulfillment of that promise has led to a combined 99 years of service.**







Left: Dahlkamp coaches chapter officers at a 2005 leadership retreat. Right: Dahlkamp, top right, and Trovaten, to his right, join their San Diego State brothers at the 2007 Atlanta Conclave to celebrate the chapter's first Buc Cup win since rechartering. Both men credit the AVC's success to the combined efforts of several alumni, including the two flanking them here: Ron Smith, '69 (left), and Dale Walters, '69.



# Kenneth S. Maddox

After graduating from Oregon State, Ken Maddox, 75, joined SigEp's traveling staff as a regional director. He spent the first seven years of his career at the Headquarters office before returning to the Northwest in 1982. While working in business development and consulting for Pacific Institute in Seattle, Maddox began volunteering with SigEp's Washington Chapter as alumni board secretary. Maddox would humbly refer to himself as a simple scribe, but he was so much more to the Washington Beta brothers.

As Maddox threw himself into the role of mentor, the depth of his talents became apparent. He advised the chapter's executive board on best practices in everything from operations and recruitment to organizational culture. Even as Maddox started a family and took up competitive sailing, he continued to make himself available to the young men of Washington Beta. He infused the chapter with a passion and energy that led to improved academic performance and increased recruitment. As a result of its sustained success, the chapter was awarded a Buchanan Cup at the 1985 Grand Chapter Conclave.

Fellow alumni saw in Maddox a gifted and dynamic young leader with a promising future. In 1987, just five years after leaving the Richmond staff, he was tapped to return to the Headquarters office as executive director. In this role, Maddox added renewed clarity and purpose to leadership events, played a crucial role in the development and launch of the Balanced Man Program, and reinvigorated the regional director program. Even today, former regional directors cite their time under Maddox's tutelage as a key step in their professional growth. Another great accomplishment of his tenure was the adoption of new expectations for chapter performance and accountability that exceeded standards set by other fraternities at the time. In recognition of his immense professional contributions to the growth of the Fraternity, and for having successfully delivered SigEp through one of its most critical periods, Maddox was awarded the Sigma Phi Epsilon Citation at the 1997 Conclave.

"I wouldn't be here if they weren't there."

After 10 years as executive director, he returned home to Oregon. Though SigEp was no longer a full-time job for Maddox, he continued to regularly invest full-time hours into the Fraternity he loved. He was immediately recruited to join the board of directors for SigEp National Housing, and he lent his time and expertise to the Oregon Chapter, as well as a number of national committees. For 12 years, Maddox served as

president and treasurer of the Oregon Beta AVC. In 2011, he became president of SigEp National Housing's board. Under his leadership, dozens of new building projects and renovations have been completed, providing safe, modern living-learning environments for chapters across the country.

When Maddox was called to the Conclave stage to accept the Order of the Golden Heart, the extent of his impact on the lives of brothers was apparent. Brothers from chapters nationwide waved greetings and reached out to shake hands with him as he approached the stage with a wide smile. Upon accepting the award, he offered a simple, but heartfelt, acknowledgement of his Oregon Alpha Chapter: "I wouldn't be here if they weren't there." Then, expressing what the brotherhood has meant to him over the years, Maddox said, "I look around the room ... and many of you are people who at times of great sadness and great pleasures, you've shared that with me. So thank you so much."



Ken Maddox (seated) and a group of regional directors take a break during a staff retreat in 1978.



## Richard "Dick" Rodgers



Luxembourg and San Marino flags hang from the Georgia Tech house during the 1996 Olympic Games. Rodgers helped ensure the home a spot in the Olympic village, giving brothers the chance to host foreign dignitaries.

**In his nearly 30 years as chapter counselor for the Georgia Tech Chapter, Dick Rodgers, Illinois '49, has been a tireless source of wisdom and leadership.** After moving to Georgia for professional reasons, he eagerly accepted the opportunity to give back to his Fraternity and share his knowledge of life and SigEp with the Georgia Tech brothers. Even as he built a successful career in marketing, Rodgers remained a mentor and confidant for brothers during their time on campus and after graduation.

He mentored the chapter as it transitioned to the Balanced Man Program and provided support that has helped the brothers earn recognition from the university and national Fraternity. During his volunteer tenure, Georgia Tech has been awarded the Buchanan Cup, earned accreditation as a

Residential Learning Community and received multiple Chapter Home of the Year Awards.

Over the years, Rodgers fostered an environment where scholarship was a priority. Today, the brothers of Georgia Tech enjoy the highest GPA in the chapter's history—a feat that's even more commendable, given that it's nearly four-tenths above the all-campus average. The chapter's membership

has increased, as well, and is now at its highest since 1993.

In his role as mentor, Rodgers sought to expose the Georgia Tech brothers to new ideas and unique opportunities. During the run-up to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, he realized the chapter should have a chance to be part of the once-in-a-lifetime event. As a member of the Olympic Village Housing Committee, he helped ensure the SigEp chapter house became part of the village. This meant brothers had to undergo several months of training to learn the finer points of etiquette and cultural awareness necessary to host foreign dignitaries. But the hard work paid off as the Games opened and the Georgia Tech Chapter welcomed athletes and coaches from Luxembourg and San Marino. The experience not only expanded the worldview of the young SigEps, but also brought national and international attention to the chapter.

Rodgers never shied away from taking on necessary projects that fell outside his official duties as chapter counselor. Prior to the Olympics, back in the early 1990s, the chapter facility needed major renovations. Determined to provide the best environment for his younger brothers, Rodgers helmed a successful \$1 million capital campaign. The end result provided the atmosphere needed to enhance fellowship and learning in the chapter. A decade later, Rodgers led a second capital campaign to make further improvements to the residence. Today, the chapter library is named in his honor.

Those fortunate to see Rodgers inducted into the Order of the Golden Heart expressed their admiration with hearty applause. As he received SigEp's highest honor, Rodgers referred to himself by his Grand Chapter roll number, a nod to the belief that he remains just one of the many capable leaders in a brotherhood that has grown well past 319,000.

**"SigEp number 33,157 thanks you from the bottom of his heart," said a humble and visibly moved Rodgers.**





## Charles E. Amato

Chairman and Co-founder,  
Southwest Business  
Corporation

Popularly known as "Mr. Greek" during his days at Sam Houston State, Charlie Amato, '70, demonstrated a level of versatility that extended well beyond his participation in Greek activities. In addition to receiving high marks academically, he excelled on the sports field and in student government.

Amato harnessed the skills that helped him succeed in college to launch his own business with close friend and chapter brother Gary Dudley, '69. Six years after graduating, the two formed Southwest Business Corporation (SWBC), a financial services firm in San Antonio, Texas.

Amato earned respect statewide for his business skills, and in 1992, was named South Texas Entrepreneur of the Year. He was called upon to chair organizations such as the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Business Hall of Fame. Amato's commitment to his community and his fellow business leaders contributed to the success of SWBC, which offers insurance and mortgages, as well as investments for individuals, businesses and financial institutions. What began six years after graduation with just Amato, Dudley and \$1,500 in savings is today a billion-dollar firm with over 3,000 employees.

Amato has also pursued business interests outside of SWBC. In 1993, he found the ideal way to combine his talents in the boardroom with his love of sports when he and Dudley became part-owners of the San Antonio Spurs. This venture has proven successful, too, with five NBA championships as evidence.

In addition to using his talent to build successful businesses, Amato invests time with several nonprofits. In 2003, he became chairman of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Under his leadership, the organization raised \$239 million to support local hospitals, fund

medical research and increase awareness surrounding various children's health issues. SWBC is also a major supporter of numerous organizations, including the Children's Hospital of San Antonio, the United Way, the American Heart Association, Junior Achievement and Amato's alma mater.

Higher education is a driving passion for Amato. He served as chairman of Sam Houston State's College of Business Advisory Council, and he dedicates time to universities across the state. Former Governor Rick Perry appointed Amato to the Texas State University System Board of Regents. In 2012, he was named chairman, while also serving as chairman of the board of trustees at the University of the Incarnate World in San Antonio.

Brother Amato shared that, like most college freshmen, he had been "a little rough on the edges" when he arrived at Sam Houston State. He told a Conclave crowd he was fortunate to find SigEp, because it was through the Fraternity that he learned how to present himself professionally. Accepting his Citation, Amato added, "I believe the brotherhood has been just as responsible for my business success as my college degree."



Amato (left) and SigEp brother and business partner Gary Dudley have been part-owners of the San Antonio Spurs since 1993. The two enjoyed a moment at the AT&T Center with Entertainus Carnivorous, mascot of the five-time NBA champs.



# Patrick W. Lawler

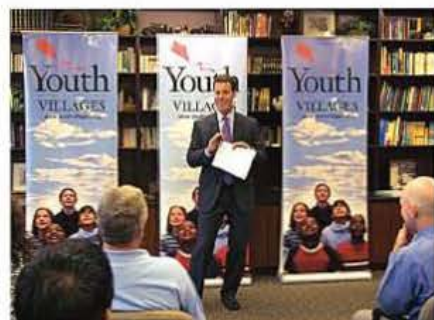
Founder and CEO,  
Youth Villages

**From his earliest days, Pat Lawler, Memphis '77, displayed an innate ability to connect with others.** His natural desire to help those in need led him to become a counselor at Tall Trees Guidance School at just 18. There, he honed an ability to mentor and advise young men experiencing difficulties in their lives.

In college, Lawler found SigEp. A people person by nature, he loved spending time with his brothers. They learned they could count on each other for support, whether the struggle was academic or personal.

After graduating with a criminal justice degree, Lawler went to work at the Juvenile Courts of Memphis and Shelby County. His colleagues were quickly impressed by his hard-working, selfless nature. At age 24, Lawler was asked to lead a small residential treatment facility outside of Memphis for troubled youth. The facility had been so plagued with problems the state was about to shut it down.

Accepting the challenge, Lawler began working with the small, but hopeful staff. Under his leadership, they revived the failing institution. By 1996, the original facility had merged with a second to form Youth Villages, with Lawler as founder and CEO. In the nearly 20 years since, Youth Villages has gone from treating a handful of children in two locations to serving more than 23,000 families annually in 70 locations in 13 states and Washington, D.C.



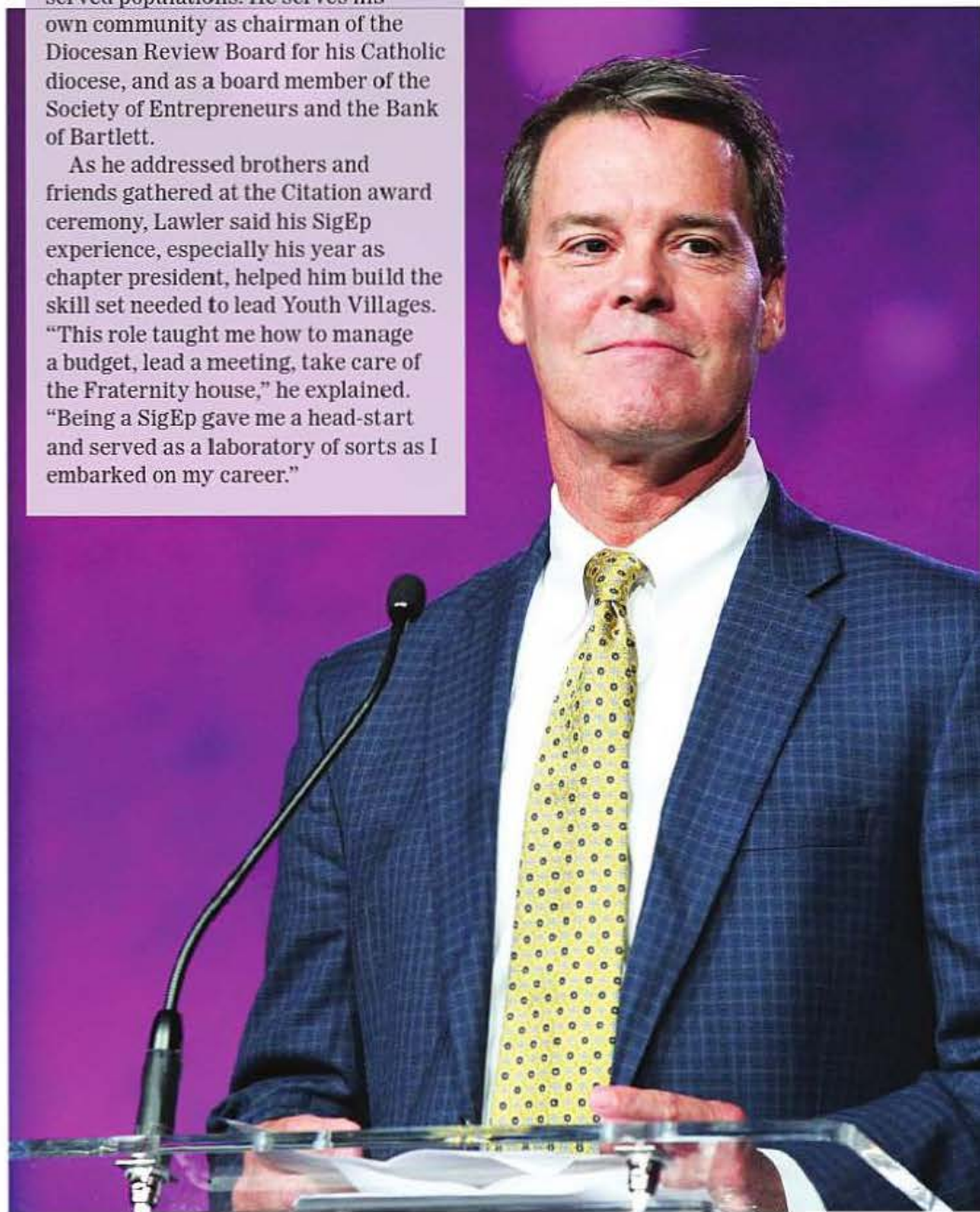
Lawler's approach has been heralded as a model by the White House and the American Youth Policy Forum.

Children come to Youth Villages for a variety of reasons, but frequently they have experienced emotional and behavioral problems, have been abused, or have been placed in foster care. Through Lawler's organization, these children receive individual counseling and, when possible, family counseling so they can return to a stable home environment. Lawler's approach has been heralded as a model by the American Youth Policy Forum, and state agencies seeking to reform their systems have looked to Youth Villages as providing the standard of care.

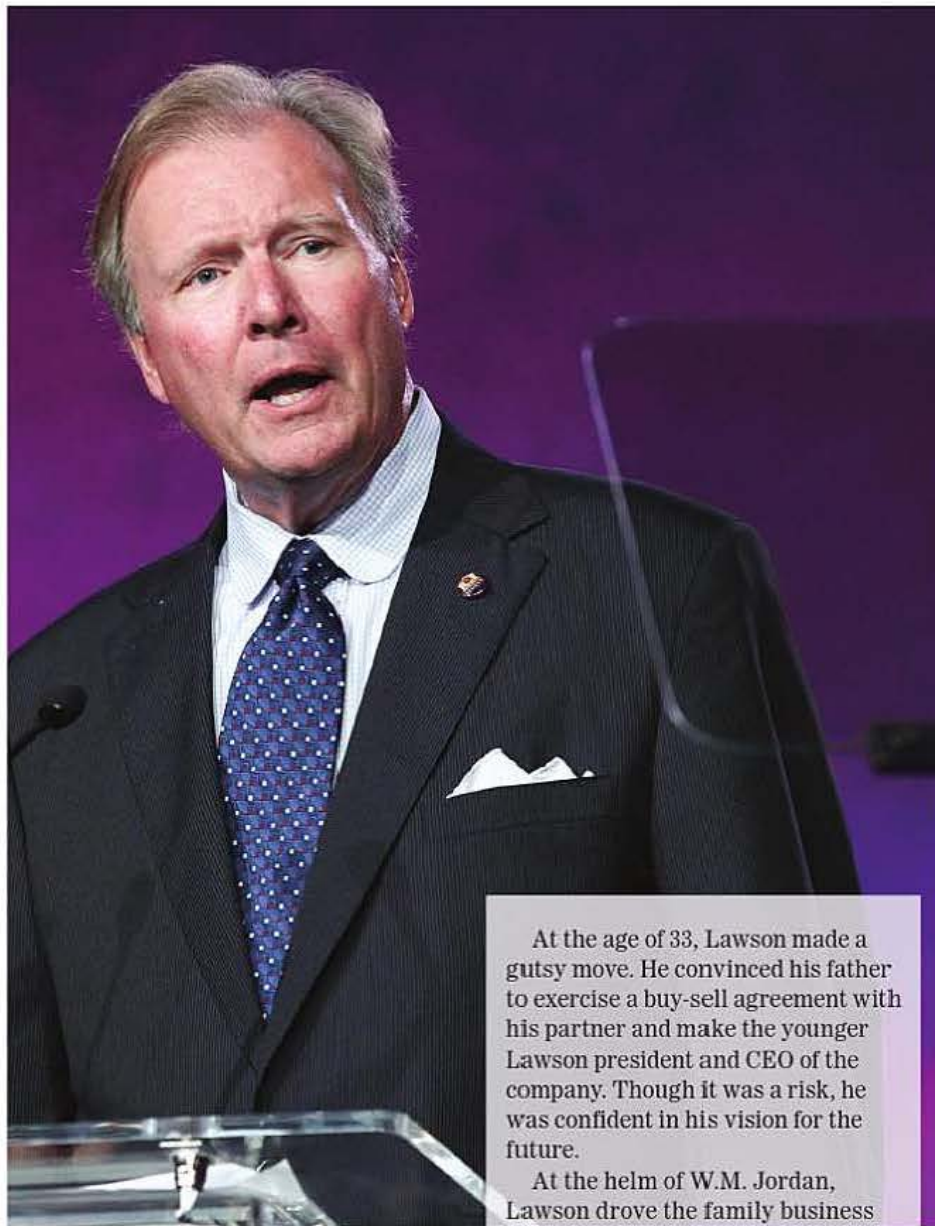
Lawler's passion for service has also led him to make regular trips to Central America, where he helps provide housing, water, electricity, education and medical care to underserved populations. He serves his own community as chairman of the Diocesan Review Board for his Catholic diocese, and as a board member of the Society of Entrepreneurs and the Bank of Bartlett.

As he addressed brothers and friends gathered at the Citation award ceremony, Lawler said his SigEp experience, especially his year as chapter president, helped him build the skill set needed to lead Youth Villages. "This role taught me how to manage a budget, lead a meeting, take care of the Fraternity house," he explained. "Being a SigEp gave me a head-start and served as a laboratory of sorts as I embarked on my career."

**"Being a SigEp gave me a head-start and served as a laboratory of sorts as I embarked on my career."**







## John R. Lawson

President and CEO,  
W.M. Jordan Company, Inc.

**As a charter member of Virginia Kappa, John Lawson, Virginia Tech '75, blazed a new trail for Greek life.** Not only was the chapter the origin of SigEp at Virginia Tech, it was the origin of national fraternities on the Blacksburg, Va., campus. Building something new had a profound effect on Lawson. The friendships he formed and leadership skills he developed have stuck with him for life.

Lawson's first job was cleaning up trash on job sites for his father's construction company, W.M. Jordan. After receiving his bachelor's degree in geophysics, he returned to the family business as a field engineer and worked his way up to supervising sites.

At the age of 33, Lawson made a gutsy move. He convinced his father to exercise a buy-sell agreement with his partner and make the younger Lawson president and CEO of the company. Though it was a risk, he was confident in his vision for the future.

At the helm of W.M. Jordan, Lawson drove the family business to become the largest construction company in Virginia. His success was due in large measure to his understanding of how employees throughout the organization contribute to the success of individual building projects and the success of the company overall. As president and CEO, he has emphasized making the company more efficient and leveraging technology and capital, rather than focusing solely on profits.

Lawson is known for a unique management style that empowers employees at all levels. Under his leadership, W.M. Jordan created its Learning and Development Center to provide employees with industry training and personal development opportunities. He also founded an internship program that has produced 30 of the company's current managers.

A builder by trade, Lawson is as equally engaged in the development of communities as he is in real estate. He serves on the board of more than a dozen organizations, including the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters, where he built both the hospital and regional offices.

Lawson also helped establish the Myers-Lawson School of Construction at Virginia Tech, which is named for him and fellow chapter brother A. Ross Myers, '72. He served two terms on Virginia Tech's board of visitors, including two years as a rector. And as co-chair of the university's \$1 billion fundraising campaign, Lawson helped ensure the financial health of the university.

A passionate SigEp alumnus, Lawson devoted his skills as a leader, builder and fundraiser to the construction of the Virginia Tech Chapter's new \$5 million home. As he accepted his Citation, Lawson spoke of how the Fraternity shaped his life. Describing SigEp as the "ultimate team sport," Lawson shared with the audience that he had been shy and introverted upon entering college. In the first weeks of school, he met some of the students working to establish the Fraternity on campus and "became part of the team." He added, "The things that I very quickly learned and experienced ... structure, values, looking out for one another ... were things that built my character and allowed me to be successful after college."



As president and CEO of Virginia's largest construction company, Lawson has managed hundreds of projects. Here, he takes a break during one of his earliest endeavors.



## Alan D. Wilson

Chairman, President and CEO,  
McCormick & Co.

**When Alan Wilson, Tennessee '76, joined SigEp at Tennessee Alpha, he played a key role in revitalizing what was then a struggling chapter.** Brothers could always count on Wilson to pitch in. Whether it was preparing the house for fall recruitment or building floats for the homecoming parade, he found passion in the task at hand. That was typical of Wilson; a relentless devotion to his work, regardless of its status or perceived importance, helped him rise through the ranks throughout his career.

After completing college on an ROTC scholarship, Wilson served as a U.S. Army captain, with tours in the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom. When he completed his military service, he went to work for Procter & Gamble. The retired Army captain's new rank was tape-buyer for the company's disposable diaper line.

Throwing himself into what some would consider a less-than-exciting job, Wilson frequented stores to examine displays and took diapers home to study their construction. He stood out for his commitment to finding ways to make products better and was promoted to management positions in product supply, procurement and manufacturing.

After nine years at P&G, a new challenge beckoned, and Wilson moved on to McCormick & Company, the world's largest spice provider. He spent the next several years leading various operating units—including Tube Products, McCormick Canada and U.S. Consumer Foods—before being tapped to run McCormick North America. Each role prepared Wilson for his current job as chairman, president and CEO. Under his leadership, the company's market value has more than doubled.

While his career has taken him around the world, Wilson has maintained a strong connection to his alma mater, where he served as the alumni board's inaugural chairman. He has made significant investments in the student experience, funding scholarships and supporting the university's business and communications programs. Interested in helping students successfully transition to college life, Wilson has also invested in Tennessee's new student orientation program. And of course, his ongoing support of Tennessee Alpha is one of the reasons the chapter continues to excel.

In his Citation acceptance speech, Wilson was jovial, sharing a mix of stories about his college days and what he's learned about life since graduating. He opened his remarks by describing himself as "just a humble pepper salesman" and elicited laughs by asking those in attendance to use the pepper on their tables to drive up McCormick's market share. As he explained what SigEp meant to him, he shared that he'd come to college from a small town in South Carolina and didn't know anyone on campus. "As I was looking around, to try to find my way, the brothers of SigEp reached out to me and created a family and a base for me to build on," said Wilson. "The friendships that I've made, and I've kept, are so important to me."



A relentless devotion to his work, regardless of its status or perceived importance, helped Wilson rise through the ranks throughout his career. Under his leadership, McCormick's market value has more than doubled.





## Two brothers named Fellows for remarkable acts of service

By AARON JAY LEDESMA, Marquette '14

From its earliest years, Sigma Phi Epsilon has counted on each member to contribute to the success of the Fraternity and society in general. The distinction of "Fellow" is reserved for undergraduate brothers who successfully complete a 500-hour or 60-day service learning project before graduation. "A Fellow is a servant leader, a brother who has applied his skills and talents in an effort to improve a community in a very meaningful and sustainable way," said Scott Dudis, Ohio State '09, before recognizing two brothers with the distinction at Conclave.

### Michael Paciero, Lawrence Tech '15

An architectural engineering student at Lawrence Tech, Michael Paciero has a passion for sustainable development projects. He also has a passion for preserving his home state of Michigan. In pursuing his Fellow project, he sought to combine these two interests.

Serving as project lead for a group of four students and a Lawrence Tech faculty member, Paciero applied for and won a \$25,000 Ford Foundation grant. With the grant's backing, he led a 50-man team of chapter brothers and friends through a sustainability-focused deconstruction project. In this method, a building that would otherwise be torn down and sent to a dump in scraps is instead analyzed for the value of its individual parts. Then, using a specialized method, the building is carefully deconstructed to preserve all usable parts of the structure. With these parts intact, developers are able to design and construct new buildings, furniture and interior finishes.

While the focus of the project was deconstruction, Paciero also used the opportunity to educate his team about blight in Detroit and how it affects the city's residents. The team had the opportunity to interact and build relationships with local residents impacted by the

challenges. The increased awareness motivated many of his chapter brothers to further engage in the city's revitalization and participate in other service opportunities in the metro-Detroit area.

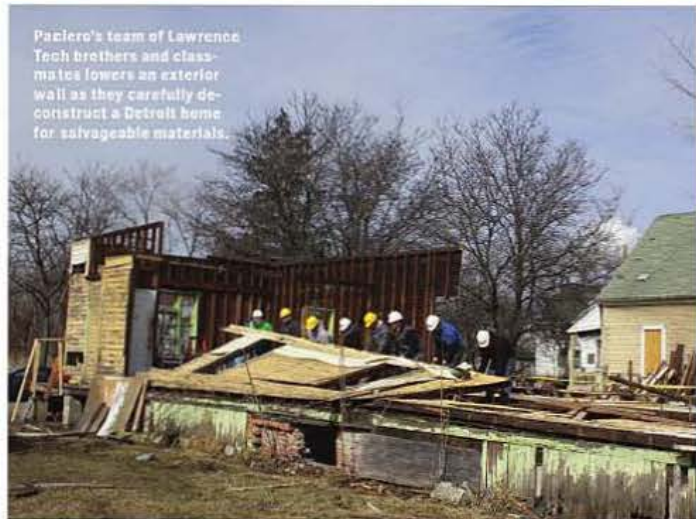
Today, Paciero and his team are continuing to work on the deconstruction process, and they are seeking additional funding to design and build a prototype house in Detroit that will utilize the project's salvaged materials.

### Alex Beckett, Stetson '14

After learning about the living conditions of the impoverished population of southwest Cameroon, Alex Beckett wanted to do two things: make a tangible difference in the lives of the Cameroonian people and inspire his brothers to see their own potential to do good.

Beckett learned of the nonprofit Mission of Hope. The group was operating in Cameroon and sought to provide hope through healing in the country. They utilized an innovative approach to medical aid, clean water solutions and opportunities for education to give underprivileged families a chance at a better future.

Beckett's conviction and passion for the cause was well received by his Stetson



brothers. With the help of his chapter, Beckett launched a fundraising campaign and raised over \$15,000 toward the cause.

After two years of fundraising, five chapter brothers accompanied Beckett on a journey to Taiyor, Cameroon. The team worked alongside local residents to clean a contaminated reservoir and redirect a stream that served as the main source of water for the town. In the evenings, they provided medical service to over 150 town inhabitants, including many children afflicted with malaria.

Despite differences in language, culture and living conditions, Beckett and his Stetson brothers found a connection through the universal language of the human experience—empathy—which transcended all differences.



# Scholar-athlete receives inaugural Frank Rader Memorial Wrestling Award

By ROB JEPSON, Utah State '12

At the 2015 Conclave Brotherhood Luncheon, **Matthew Davis, Ohio State '17**, received the inaugural Frank Rader Memorial Wrestling Award. The award recognizes undergraduates who embody the ideals of Sound Mind and Sound Body by engaging in competitive wrestling during college while demonstrating strong community leadership and academic performance. Past Grand President and Order of the Golden Heart recipient **Gary Griffith, Texas-Austin '70**, announced the award.

**Frank E. Rader, Davidson '71**, was a national figure in the world of wrestling, Griffith said. "His impact on SigEp was beyond measure. As a wrestler at Davidson, Frank learned to balance his academic endeavors, social life and athletic interests. Over the course of his career, he would find repeated opportunities to merge his interests, using wrestling as a way to serve others and share the lessons he learned through SigEp."

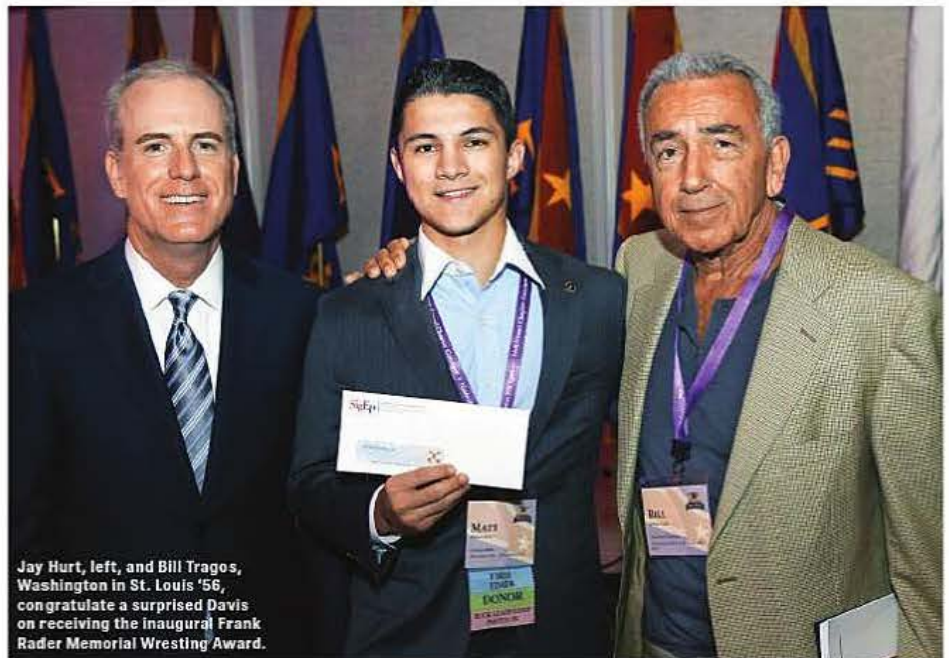
In 1982, Rader was named USA Wrestling Man of the Year. He went on to serve on the Olympic wrestling staff for the 1984 Los Angeles Games and the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Throughout his life, Rader served as a chapter volunteer and was known for his willingness to invest time in brothers and continually challenge himself and others to learn and grow. Rader was inducted into the Order of the Golden Heart in 1999. Following his passing in May 2015, fellow North Carolina Epsilon brother and lifelong friend **Jay Hurt, '88**, established the scholarship in Rader's honor.

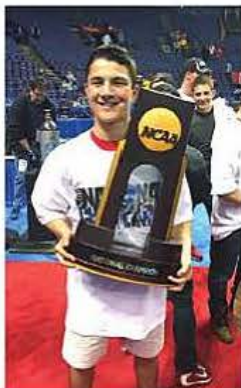
"Like Frank, Matthew lives his life in order to serve others," Griffith said.

Davis has served as a campus mentor and recently created a program to empower minority voices in the Greek community. He has helped raise more than \$10,000 for Relay for Life, assisted with Red Cross blood drives, led group Bible studies, and spent time visiting with a 6-year-old cancer survivor and his family. He currently maintains a 3.94 GPA as a biomedical science major with a minor in economics. "Matthew, like Frank, you are a servant to those around you, a force for good in the world and a leading example for every SigEp," Griffith said.

The recognition was a complete surprise to Davis, who was attending his first Conclave as a member of the Ohio State delegation. "I am extremely honored and humbled to have received the inaugural Frank Rader Memorial Wrestling Award," he said. "I would not be in the position I am in today without the supportive environment and role models I've found in SigEp. The greatest benefit of the award has been the number of relationships formed with SigEps who share my passion for the Fraternity and wrestling."



Jay Hurt, left, and Bill Tragos, Washington in St. Louis '56, congratulate a surprised Davis on receiving the inaugural Frank Rader Memorial Wrestling Award.



A member of Ohio State's 2015 National Championship wrestling team, Davis maintains a 3.94 GPA as a biomedical science major with a minor in economics.

**"In order for man to succeed in life, God provided him with two means, education and physical activity. Not separately, one for the soul and the other for the body, but the two together. With these two means, man can attain perfection."**

**~ Plato**



# Chapter News

## Chapter excellence celebrated at the Balanced Man Celebration

SigEp's 54th Grand Chapter Conclave welcomed more than 1,600 brothers and friends at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn., for the biennial Balanced Man Celebration. Energy filled the auditorium as a light show opened the ceremony and a dozen bagpipers proceeded to the stage. Tennessee Senator Randy McNally, Memphis '66, offered a formal welcome from the state, memorialized by a signed Resolution from the Tennessee Governor and Tennessee Speaker of the House.

Undergraduate emcees Kris Alvarez, Stevens Tech '16, and Jason Esau, Murray State '16, recognized the service of SigEp's district governors and full-time traveling staff. SigEp's National Board of Directors then announced the 13 chapters who had been awarded their charters since the 53rd Grand Chapter Conclave in 2013.

The National Board of Directors next recognized 32 chapters with SigEp's highest chapter honor, the Buchanan Outstanding Chapter Award. Nine chapters were given Gold Buchanan Cups for winning the award for five consecutive Conclaves or more.

Southern Mississippi and Montana State RLC were both awarded the first Buc Cups in their chapters' histories, and Delaware became the newest Gold Buc Cup chapter.

Cincinnati RLC received their 14th consecutive Buc Cup, representing the longest winning streak in SigEp's history.

As the evening drew to an end, Student Director Sawyer Hicks, Davidson '14, spoke on behalf of Grand President Phillip A. Cox, Indiana '84, who was not able to speak due to ongoing health challenges.

"Last Conclave, Grand President Cox reminded us of the importance of our Balanced Man Program," Hicks said. "While others, including some of our own chapters, have fallen by the wayside, forgetting the founding values of our organizations, many of you have been bold in your defiance of the TFM, frat boy stereotypes. You have been positive on virtue's behalf. You have been proactive in your brotherly love. And you have made our great Fraternity stronger as a result."

When Hicks finished his speech, Grand President Cox surprised the audience by joining him on stage. As the closing music cued, volunteers and undergraduates swarmed the stage to join Cox and celebrate the accomplishments of the past two years.

BELIEVE



Loyola Marymount brothers celebrate a gold Buc Cup win with Father William Fulco, Loyola Marymount Renaissance.

### Gold Buchanan Cup recipients:

California Chi RLC – Loyola Marymount  
Delaware Alpha – Delaware  
Illinois Alpha RLC – Illinois  
Missouri Zeta RLC – Southeast Missouri State  
Nebraska Alpha RLC – Nebraska  
Ohio Gamma RLC – Ohio State  
Ohio Iota RLC – Toledo  
Ohio Theta RLC – Cincinnati  
Oregon Alpha RLC – Oregon State

### Silver Buchanan Cup recipients:

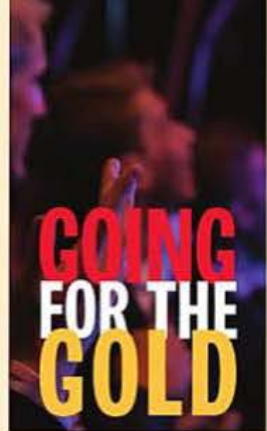
Arkansas Zeta – Central Arkansas\*  
D.C. Delta – American  
D.C. Gamma – Georgetown  
Georgia Delta RLC – Georgia  
Indiana Beta RLC – Indiana  
Iowa Delta RLC – Drake\*  
Iowa Theta – Northern Iowa\*  
Kansas Eta – Wichita State\*  
Maine Alpha RLC – Maine  
Michigan Beta RLC – Western Michigan  
Michigan Theta RLC – Lawrence Tech  
Mississippi Gamma – Southern Mississippi\*  
Missouri Gamma – Missouri-S&T\*  
Montana Beta RLC – Montana State\*  
Nebraska Gamma RLC – Nebraska-Kearney\*  
New Jersey Alpha RLC – Stevens Tech  
New Jersey Zeta RLC – Rider  
New York Phi – Columbia\*  
Oklahoma Beta RLC – Oklahoma  
Texas Alpha – Texas-Austin\*  
Virginia Pi RLC – Christopher Newport  
Washington Alpha RLC – Washington State  
Washington Beta – Washington

\* Indicates chapter did not receive the award in 2013.

### Newly chartered chapters include:

Alabama Beta – Alabama  
1/24/15  
Arizona Beta – Arizona  
12/5/15  
Florida Epsilon – Florida State  
4/18/15  
Georgia Theta – Emory  
10/2/15  
Kansas Zeta – Fort Hays State  
5/10/14  
Kentucky Alpha – Kentucky  
11/14/15  
Massachusetts Gamma – Boston University  
10/17/15  
New Hampshire Gamma – New Hampshire  
4/25/15  
Pennsylvania Upsilon – Clarion  
10/2/15  
Rhode Island Beta – Rhode Island  
9/26/15  
Virginia Delta – William & Mary  
10/16/14  
Virginia Iota – James Madison  
4/5/15  
West Virginia Beta – West Virginia  
Installation date TBD





Winning a Buchanan Cup is tough. But winning at least five in a row is nothing short of remarkable. Here, some of the 2015 Gold Buc Cup winners share their secrets to success. Whether your chapter received hardware in Nashville or didn't even apply for the award, these eight pieces of advice can drastically change the future of your chapter:

# 1: Recruit the best men on campus by utilizing the Balanced Man Scholarship.

**"It is all about finding a group of individuals that have the same values and are looking for the same experiences as the chapter. A chapter must find people that are smart, driven and dedicated to make a difference wherever they go."** ~ RYAN PEEBLES, ILLINOIS '17 (President)

# 2: Make the Balanced Man Program the centerpiece of your membership experience.

**"Proper execution of the BMP not only improves your chapter's performance, it also improves the lives of your brothers. Implement the five philosophical tenets and watch the success it will bring."**

~ DON STENTA, OHIO STATE '01  
(Chapter Counselor, Ohio State)

# 3: Measure yourself against your potential, not your peers.

**"You will fail if you care too much about what other fraternities think about your chapter. Embrace being different ... because if you do it right, being different means being better. Keep focused on what it will take to be the best possible SigEp chapter, and the rest will take care of itself."**

~ NICK WAGNER,  
CINCINNATI '16 (President)

# 4: Embrace accountability and tough brotherly love.

**"When we have members falter, we aren't afraid to let the hammer fall. Whether it is poor grades, delinquent dues or conduct violations, you must be willing to uphold your standards at any cost. Sometimes that means letting a brother you care for dearly go for the good of the whole. It's never easy, but it is absolutely critical to continued success."**

~ MILTON SANTIAGO, CANISIUS '97 (Chapter Counselor, Loyola Marymount)

# 5: Be innovative and don't be afraid to fail.

**"We encourage the undergrads to try new things out; sometimes they work, other times, not. But that's how you find success. The key for the AVC is to help the undergrads through that process."**

~ REY MEDINA,  
CINCINNATI '99 (AVC President, Cincinnati)

# 6: Learn from the Buchanan Cup process.

**"Review the feedback from the review committee and the expectations in the application. This gives you a clear picture of what it takes to win the award. Base your chapter goals around this feedback and these expectations."**

~ JOHN VINCENT, SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE '97  
(Chapter Counselor, Southeast Missouri State)

# 7: Build a strong mentor committee of volunteers that provides weekly support to undergraduate leaders.

**"You need strong leadership by example from volunteers advising members on where to set 'the bar' in terms of conduct, leadership, membership, finances, etc. Make sure these volunteers have diverse expertise in areas such as property management, finance, sales/marketing and business."**

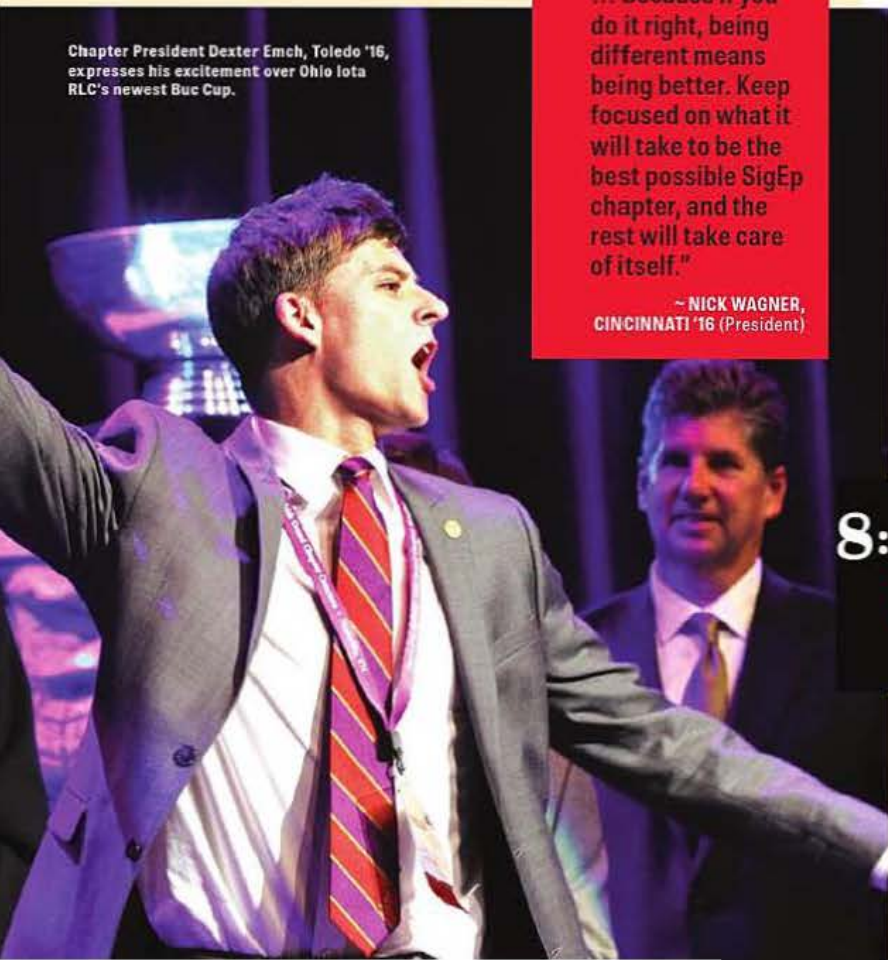
~ STEVE COOK, OREGON STATE '76 (AVC President, Oregon State)

# 8: Don't forget to have fun.

**"The chapter will operate more efficiently towards goals if everyone is having fun and excited to work hard."**

~ LUKE MALONE, DELAWARE '17 (President)

Chapter President Dexter Emch, Toledo '16, expresses his excitement over Ohio Iota RLC's newest Buc Cup.







# “SigEp needs heroes”

By **NATHAN COLE**, Baldwin Wallace '17, and **ROBERT WILLIAMSON-NOBLE**, Rhode Island '17

A Conclave audience of nearly 1,000 listened intently to Caitlin Flanagan, investigative journalist for *The Atlantic*, as she discussed the relevance of fraternities today with the University of Virginia's associate vice president and dean of students, Allen Groves. Flanagan's 2014 article, “The Dark Power of Fraternities,” brought attention to flaws she sees in today's Greek system. The provocative conversation, moderated by SigEp CEO Brian Warren, Virginia '04, served as the opening session of SigEp's 54th Conclave.

“Fraternities are at a historic crossroads,” said Flanagan. “There is a need for them to evolve.” This was presented not just as a warning, but as an opportunity for change. Many in attendance, including Flanagan and Groves, believed there were many opportunities for SigEp to lead.

Flanagan and Groves also took questions from the audience during the open dialogue about fraternities. The

outstanding amount of good performed by Greek organizations was recognized throughout the discussion. However, it was acknowledged that the poor behavior of individual members and chapters can easily cast a dark shadow over the entire system, making it hard to reconcile stories of “frat boy” behavior with the honorable goals expressed by fraternities.



Reports of hazing and other negative behavior have cast an increasingly harsh glare on the Greek system. In a frank discussion with *The Atlantic*'s Caitlin Flanagan and the University of Virginia's Allen Groves, right, Conclave attendees discussed the road forward for fraternities.





## The 54th Conclave calls for change

After a thought-provoking discussion with Flanagan and Groves, brothers joined representatives from SigEp's National Board of Directors for a panel discussion on why the need for SigEp is greater than ever. Undergraduates and volunteers discussed how SigEp, a pioneer of significant improvements to the modern Greek system, could continue to lead in communities of higher education at a time when more people are challenging the importance of fraternity life. Proposed solutions included the prospect of dry housing and the end of pledge programs. Although the board agreed that fraternities were at a pivotal time in their histories, they shared a firm belief that SigEp was taking the right measures to ensure continued success and partnership with higher education.

A common theme throughout the session was the importance of undergraduate brothers taking leadership in their chapters on controversial issues. "Hold your peers accountable," advised National Director **Thomas Jelke, Florida International '90**, "because it is hard for 17- to 25-year-old males to change male groupthink." Grand Treasurer **Christopher Bittman, Colorado '85**, added to this sentiment, saying, "SigEp needs heroes, champions and leaders. One guy can make a huge difference—you have to make that difference." These words and the conversations they sparked carried forward throughout the Conclave as chapter delegates made important decisions about SigEp's future.

**SigEp needs heroes, champions and leaders. One guy can make a huge difference—you have to make that difference."**

~ Christopher Bittman  
Colorado '85



# Delegates vote to adopt the Balanced Man Program for all chapters

By ROB JEPSON, Utah State '12

**The atmosphere on the legislative floor was electric** after an undergraduate-sponsored resolution to replace pledging at all chapters with SigEp's Balanced Man Program was passed. The vote occurred on the opening day of legislation at the 54th Conclave and made SigEp the first national fraternity to abolish pledging completely with an undergraduate vote. Responding to news of the legislation, CEO Brian Warren said, **"SigEp has proven that undergraduates are capable of leading major, positive change for their Fraternity."**

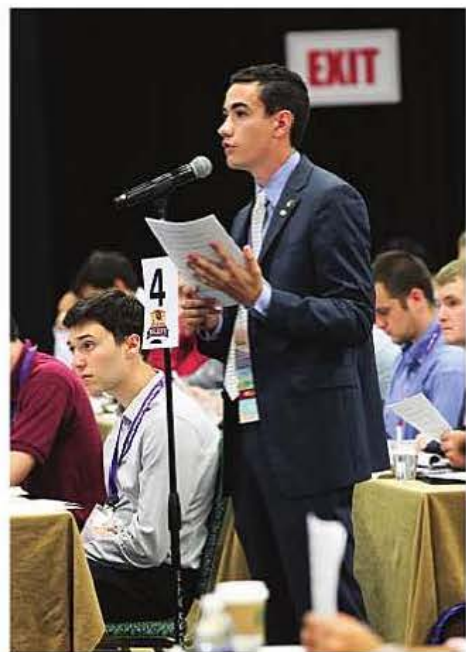
When SigEp created the Balanced Man Program in 1991, it represented a strong contrast to other fraternities' pledge programs as it sought to combat negative stereotypes associated with Greek life and align the Fraternity with its founding values. In the following decades, other groups attempted to replicate the program, adopting non-pledging development models at the national level. However, SigEp remains the sole fraternity to remove pledging through an undergraduate vote, rather than a top-down mandate.

The 2015 Conclave vote was the product of an undergraduate-led effort to align all chapters behind what has become a brand-defining program. By the end of the 2014-2015 school year, 215 of SigEp's 228 chapters had selected the program as their model for member development. Over the summer, a coalition of undergraduate brothers from South Carolina, Ohio State, Georgia, South Florida, Drexel, Montana State, Oklahoma State and Nebraska met to draft a resolution that would make the Balanced Man Program SigEp's only development model.

Members of the coalition sought out feedback and support from undergraduates, alumni and volunteers across the country. When their resolution reached the legislative floor, 140 chapters had already weighed in to voice support.

The resolution also received the backing of each of SigEp's 26 district governors, alumni-volunteers charged with supporting chapter volunteers in their district. In a joint letter to Conclave delegates, the district governors reflected on the clear advantage experienced by chapters already running the program. "Our chapters that are successfully implementing the BMP are leaders in the classroom, on the athletic fields, and in the community," the district governors wrote. "They can tangibly demonstrate to future SigEps and their parents that by joining SigEp they will not only enjoy a rewarding and fun undergraduate experience, but will be better prepared for life after college."

SigEp's Past Grand Presidents also expressed support for the resolution. In an open letter to delegates, they reflected on how the world of higher



Arizona Chapter President Jack Emery, '17, shares support for the legislation. Days later, delegates selected him as a Student Director for the National Board.



Right: Delegates cast their votes in favor of aligning all chapters behind the Balanced Man Program.  
Below: Cincinnati Chapter President Nick Wagner, '16, stands in applause with fellow delegates after the historic vote.



education had changed over the course of their collective terms and how the reform could bring all chapters "closer to our shared values and aspirations as fraternity men."

Undergraduate delegates agreed with their assessment. "I voted for this legislation because I truly believe in the benefit of the Balanced Man Program," said Chapter President **Conner Jackson, Nebraska '16**, who was a member of the coalition. "It is constantly pushing individuals and chapters to innovate and strive to become better. I also believe that, from a national standpoint, Sigma Phi Epsilon will be stronger when all chapters are united under one development model."

Recent graduate **Max Fowler, South Carolina '15**, said he too believed the vote would unify the Fraternity on a national scale. In the summer 2015 Journal and on The SigEp Blog, Fowler and chapter brother **Zachary Knight, '14**, shared the story of their introduction to SigEp, the hazing and disappointment they experienced as

pledges, and how they eventually turned their chapter around. Their widely read story sparked a national discussion about the value of the pledging experience.

"The modern fraternity world is broken," Fowler said. "Hazing allegations, mortalities, substance abuse and a number of other serious issues riddle fraternity chapters across the country. Society needs to see that the American college fraternity is still relevant, and we have to show them SigEp is leading the charge."

### Praise from higher education

The decision to universally adopt the Balanced Man Program occurred at a critical moment for both the American college fraternity system and higher education. In a July 2015 Fraternity report, CEO Warren addressed the seriousness of issues faced on today's college campuses. "In the first four months of 2015, almost 8,000 articles were published about alcohol and sexual assault on college campuses," Warren

said. "Meanwhile, communities in higher education were consumed by conversations about sexual assault prevention, racial and ethnic diversity on campus, and the overall value of Greek life."

While fraternities have become targets for sensationalist headlines, Warren said that SigEp is committed to providing meaningful and lasting solutions for its campus partners. "Our recent efforts and future priorities intend to fill voids felt by students, faculty and administrators, and offer a more complete collegiate experience," he said.

The Balanced Man Program has been at the center of SigEp's efforts to compliment the classroom experience. The program helps students navigate the 90 percent of college spent outside of a formal classroom setting and provides structure, support and guidance required to excel in school and after graduation.

SigEp Faculty Fellow Debra Mullen sees programs like the BMP as the





future of Greek life. "The mug and paddle days have passed," said Mullen, who serves as associate dean at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Education and Human Sciences. "If collegiate-age SigEps are growing into manhood, they will get there faster and with more dignity by challenging their need to be egocentric, hedonistic and constantly vying for dominance," she said, referring to the all-too-common realities of contemporary pledge programs. Mullen thinks that **"real men recognize real challenge," and the BMP's platform of continuous development is attracting and producing the kind of men that undergraduates, alumni and universities are looking for in their chapters.**

Opinions similar to Mullen's are common among university faculty and staff. The Balanced Man Program has been cited as a model in higher education since its inception and continues to make SigEp an attractive partner for schools across the country.

"When campuses and fraternities partner around a common hope to nurture the best qualities of young men, good things happen," said Frank Shushok, Virginia Tech's senior associate vice president for student affairs. Virginia Tech alumni are working with

Shushok to return SigEp to campus this fall. The chapter was closed in 2013 after a culture of hazing developed in their pledge program. This will be the first time the Virginia Tech Chapter has operated the Balanced Man Program. "Sigma Phi Epsilon and Virginia Tech are walking in step to ensure our collective aims are achieved. We fully expect the outcome will be a chapter designed to build leaders, learners and the most decent of human beings," said Shushok.

Similarly, Clarion University sought the return of SigEp to their campus because of the Balanced Man Program. "Sigma Phi Epsilon was specifically identified as an organization we were interested in joining the university, in large part because of the way in which the organization expresses its values through programs like the Balanced Man Program," said Clarion President Karen Whitney.

For other campus administrators, the program is changing their opinions about the potential of Greek life. "Many presidents who come to colleges and universities assume the worst," said Valparaiso President Mark Heckler. "[SigEp] provided a wonderful example of what a group of brothers could do if they came together and said, 'We want to have the best house possible, the best



Left: District governors Ehren Stanhope, Tulane '05, Jason St. John, Maryland-College Park '94, and John Hartman, Missouri '61, celebrate after the resolution passes.

Max Fowler (third from left) and Zach Knight (second from right) rebuilt the South Carolina Chapter as a leading organization on their campus using the Balanced Man Program and helped spearhead the Conclave legislation. They received the Clayton-Doud Award for their joint effort.

living environment, the best academic support community, the best group of athletes."

### Supporting the switch

SigEp's new Grand President, Rick Bennet, Central Missouri '74, said the Fraternity's top priority during his term



Gavin Doll, Wright State '17, led his chapter's adoption of the Balanced Man Program. In Nashville, he shared how the program can improve accountability and keep older members engaged.





Following the landmark vote, delegates and Conclave attendees paraded along Opryland Drive as they made their way to the Grand Ole Opry, site of the Balanced Man Celebration. The Memphis Chapter led the jubilant crowd with the help of the Antioch High School Band.

will be helping chapters implement the Balanced Man Program.

The final legislation called on all remaining pledge-model chapters to adopt the program and begin the process of implementing it before December 31, 2015. Chapters already running the Balanced Man Program were charged with ensuring their operations align fully with the program's philosophical tenets: equal rights and responsibilities, continuous development, accountability, living the Ritual, and mentoring. The legislation further tasked the Headquarters staff with expanding services and resources to assist chapters in implementation. An online platform to help chapters better manage the program's progressive challenges and the individual progress of members was specifically requested in the legislation.

Nebraska President Conner Jackson said he and the rest of the coalition are eager to turn their energy to helping former pledge-model chapters transition

to the Balanced Man Program. Since Conclave, undergraduate leaders and volunteers from these chapters have become peer mentors for their counterparts at chapters implementing the program for the first time. Meanwhile, brothers at both transitioning and long-time Balanced Man Program chapters are seeing the legislation as an opportunity to improve operationally and strengthen their cultures around equal rights and responsibilities and development for older members.

Former Vice President of Member Development and current Chaplain Gavin Doll, Wright State '17, said his chapter voted to adopt the Balanced Man Program before Conclave. "We were happy with our performance as a pledge-model chapter, but some of us started to see it lead us down a bad path. Over the next year, we spent countless hours researching, planning, working with our regional director and educating our chapter brothers about the BMP."

Since making the switch, Doll said, "Everything has changed for the better." He admits they still have work to do to improve their program, but says the focus of the chapter has seen a 180-degree turn. "The important thing is to embrace the original SigEp traditions that started in 1901," said Doll. "Our Founding Fathers believed in equal membership. Pledging was a time to learn about the Fraternity, not to treat members differently. Hazing developed much later. It hasn't always been a part of the fraternity experience, and it shouldn't be anymore."

**"Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others." ~ Plato**





Steve Bishop commits  
\$200,000 to the Phillip A. Cox  
Volunteer Institute on behalf  
of the Indiana Beta AVC.

In the weeks that followed,  
the campaign raised more  
than \$850,000 of its \$1 million  
goal.



# Conclave giving builds new endowment for volunteers



By ANDREW J. PARRISH, Georgia '13, and BEN FORD

**At Conclave, SigEp brothers and friends committed to create and fund the Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute.** The institute was named after and inspired by outgoing Grand President Phillip A. Cox, Indiana '84. National Director Garry Kief, Southern California '70, announced the plan to Cox at a Conclave fundraising gala in downtown Nashville: "Your brothers and SigEp friends are here tonight to honor you and commit to you that we intend to continue your work with volunteers and complete a \$1 million endowment to support volunteer education."

Alumni, volunteers and guests had gathered at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum to support SigEp's new volunteer institute. Many in attendance were in on the real surprise of the evening: that the institute would be named in Cox's honor. "Phil, we're going to make this happen because we love you, because this program matters," said an emotional Kief.

Cox, who was elected Grand President at the 2013 Dallas Conclave, battled cancer throughout his term. "Eager to keep the focus on your SigEp experience, he's fought this fight quietly, never letting his health keep him from his duties as Grand President," said outgoing Student Director Sawyer Hicks, Davidson '14, to the Conclave assembly. Those supporting the institute were excited to celebrate Cox and his life's work with him in Nashville.



## THE PHILLIP A. COX VOLUNTEER INSTITUTE

Following the emotional reveal, Kief and Grand Treasurer **Chris Bittman, Colorado '85**, presented Cox and his wife, Jane, with a framed proclamation establishing the Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute.

Over the course of the evening, guests contributed enthusiastically to the endowment through a live auction that included packages like grandstand seating at the 2015 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, donated by **Terry Lundgren, Arizona '74**, and a collection of SigEp Journal covers signed by Lundgren and other prominent alumni, including: **Jim Clayton, Tennessee '57**; **Bob Eckert, Arizona '76**; **Ed Haldeman, Dartmouth '70**; **Rick Marini, New Hampshire '94**; **Ryan Mathews, Fresno State '11**; and **Ron Olson, Drake '63**. By the auction's close, \$450,000 had been committed toward the endowment.

The auction's energy and momentum continued into the following day, when plans for the Cox Institute were made public at the Alumni Awards Dinner. Once more at the podium, Kief announced that proceeds from the 2015 Conclave banner auction would support the new initiative.

Each Conclave, the ceremonial banner hung in the grand ballroom throughout the week is auctioned off in support of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation. Late Citation Recipient and Life Trustee **Bill Schreyer, Pennsylvania State '48**, famously set the previous record at \$100,000 at SigEp's Centennial Celebration in 2001.

Not long after bidding began, a table of Cox's Indiana Chapter brothers took the microphone. "I sit with the 10 undergraduates that are here for Indiana University, and they wouldn't be sitting at the table here tonight without Phil Cox," said **Chris Foster, Indiana '84**.

As the microphone circled the table, alumni-volunteers who had worked alongside Cox for many decades spoke of the important role he plays in the life of the chapter. "He's the most generous person I know. ... He's generous with his time, his money and mostly his

heart. And [he's] the thread that holds us together at Indiana Beta," said **Ty McDaniel, Indiana '85**.

Finally, the microphone was handed to Alumni and Volunteer Corporation President **Steve Bishop, Indiana '76**, who announced, "To honor the legacy of all the great leaders in this room, we have to invest in the future. Indiana Beta will pay \$200,000." As an enthusiastic crowd stood in applause, Cox, in awe of the news, wrapped each of his Indiana Chapter brothers in his arms.

Indiana's winning bid shattered the previous auction record and ushered in a new stream of gifts as brothers and friends learned about the campaign. More than \$850,000 of the \$1 million goal was raised in the days and weeks that followed.

### A focus on volunteers

Throughout his term as Grand President, Cox reminded others that a group of dedicated volunteers are found behind every great chapter and SigEp success story. He communicated the overarching importance of strong alumni-volunteer involvement and worked to expand the scope and quality of volunteer education at Carlson Leadership Academies and Grand Chapter Conclaves. He also grew the national Fraternity's volunteer services staff in Richmond and piloted a Drive-In program that brought volunteer education to alumni around the country.

"Phil was one of the first people to recognize there's a direct correlation between how good our chapters are and how good our volunteers are," said **Brad Nahrstadt, Monmouth '89**. "Today's student is craving interaction with successful, engaged alumni."

Cox's initiatives also came in response to increased demand from volunteers for additional training and support from the national Fraternity. A growing number were seeking education to prepare them to mentor students in a college environment different from the ones they experienced themselves.

Recognizing the limitations of the annual Carlson Leadership Academy



and biennial Conclave for volunteers with demanding careers and busy family lives led to the creation of Drive-Ins, which brought in-person education to cities across the country in 2014. The Drive-Ins were an immediate success, and the concept became the foundation for the Cox Institute.

### A dream realized

On September 20, 2015, volunteers from Indiana, Ohio and Illinois joined Cox at





his alma mater in Bloomington, Ind., for the inaugural Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute. They participated in sessions on the Balanced Man Program, corporate health, new volunteer resources, Conclave legislation and the state of the national Fraternity.

An additional strength of the Cox Institute was evident to those present. "The greatest benefit to a meeting like this is the facilitated discussions between volunteers of different chapters, the sharing of ideas and the ability to receive feedback," said Indiana Tech Chapter Counselor **John Sims, Indiana Tech '94**. Cox Institute curriculum is tailored to the specific needs of attendees at each program, and volunteers are encouraged to explore rabbit holes and in-the-weeds scenarios that can't always be accommodated at other SigEp programs.

Even longtime volunteers found unique opportunities at the inaugural institute. "The Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute session is content rich and time efficient, much to my

liking," said Order of the Golden Heart Recipient **John Abraham, Cincinnati '77**. "After all these years, if I can take notes on ideas and updates to bring back to our AVC in Cincinnati, you know there is something to gain in one day."

The inaugural institute was followed by programs in Washington, D.C.; Tampa, Fla.; San Diego; and Kansas City, Mo., this fall. In order to expand the reach of volunteer education, the Cox Institute will be held in cities that do not typically host Carlson Leadership Academies. And a one-day format makes the institute more accessible for volunteers unable to attend the week-end-long Carlson program.



Top: Fred Prall, Indiana '63, explores in-the-weeds scenarios with volunteers from Illinois, Indiana and Ohio at the inaugural Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute. Above: Illinois Chapter Counselor Shawn Dalglish, Illinois '81, joined Cox at a session on the Balanced Man Program.



Clockwise from top: Phillip Cox embraces his chapter brothers after learning about their \$200,000 gift. Renato Villacorte, CalPoly-Pomona '91, and wife, Estrellita, with the display for the gala auction item they donated: a personalized tour of Disneyland. Garry Kief (center) and Jay Hurt (right) share a laugh with CEO Brian Warren during the auction. Chris Foster talks about Cox's impact on Indiana during the banner auction. Kief and Chris Bittman present Cox and wife, Jane, with a proclamation establishing the institute. As gala emcee, Kief welcomes guests to the Country Music Hall of Fame.

When the \$1 million endowment is complete, the institute will reach 400-500 volunteers in 8-10 cities with crucial education every year. Based on its early success and acclaim, the program promises to make a transformational impact on SigEp and the lives of its brothers, just as Cox has throughout his many years of service. The Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute will continue his work in perpetuity by providing consistent and quality education to SigEp's volunteers.



# Balanced Men, Built

*The second of a two-part series*

**SigEp's**

**40**  
**UNDER 40**

**PART II**

In the last issue of the Journal, we introduced the first 20 of SigEp's "40 under 40." In Part II, we continue to look at some of our most exciting young alumni. Each is the product of a great SigEp experience. Each reminds us what a Balanced Man looks like.

These brothers have achieved early success in their chosen fields, are living embodiments of SigEp's values, and are fulfilling their lifetime responsibility of brotherhood as they pay it forward as volunteers, mentors and program faculty for SigEp's signature leadership events.

The Journal staff and our selection committee reaffirm that no list of 40 will ever be complete. Countless brothers deserve the Fraternity's attention and praise. Know a brother who fits this description? Let us know so we can keep the SigEp's under 40 conversation going.





## Ryan Blanck, Western Michigan '02

Founder and CEO, Deviate | Performance Coach

**Ryan is the only dual certified professional facilitator and certified personal trainer in the world.** He combines these talents to coach leaders and teams at Fortune 500s, nonprofits and startups. He also coaches world-class athletes and entertainers, advising clients on everything from performance and culture to change management and wellbeing. Top universities call on him to lecture on leadership, and he's a member of his alma mater's college of business board. Crediting his success to SigEp, Ryan gives back as a mainstay facilitator at EDGE, Carlson, Ruck and regional director development.

**What personal philosophy do you live by?** "Our business—and my life with my partner-in-crime, Amanda—is built upon one simple belief: your success, performance and leadership will only go as high as your health and happiness. You want to summit? Great. Make yourself a priority and work hard to be healthy and happy. Our team knows that an expectation of their employment is they take time for themselves ... in mind and body. Sweating is expected ... just as is downtime and being a life-long learner."

## Justin Burnett, Sam Houston State '02

Vice President, Supply Chain: Materials Management and Warehousing, BP

**Justin has looked death in the face, and he's passionate about making the most out of life.** In 2012, he collapsed from sudden cardiac death while running a 10K. Among the mere 4 percent of survivors who have gone on to live a normal life, Justin returned to run the very same race in 2013 with his wife and three SigEp brothers. "Life is too short. Take care of business, but don't forget to have a good time along the way," he says. For Justin, that includes serving as one of the youngest vice presidents in BP's history, while making time for family, philanthropy and volunteering. Justin's career has had an international focus from the start. His job has taken him to 13 countries, including six years spent living abroad

in Venezuela, Indonesia and Azerbaijan. Lessons learned as a chapter president have helped propel Justin's career, and he's working to restart his chapter as AVC president.

**What's kept you involved with SigEp?** "SigEp and the brothers of Texas Eta were the four most influential years of my life. We created bonds together, and the leadership and relationship skills that I learned in the chapter were what have really driven me in my career. I want to ensure others have that opportunity."



## David Bradt, California-Davis '03

Managing Consultant, Organizational Talent and Cultural Development, IBM Global Business Services | Founder, The Ethos Partnership | Entrepreneur | Coach | Writer | Public Speaker

**"Never lose focus on the importance of the people in any organization,"** says Dave. As a Marine Corps captain, he led teams of 30-200 in combat during the Iraq War. Today, he leads organizations undergoing change as a management consultant. After hours, Dave is building a team-leadership program based on his experiences in the military. He keynoted IBM's 2015 Network for Emerging Women Leaders Conference and was a spokesperson for the Defense Department's "Why We Serve" public outreach program. He also shares his expertise with young SigEps as a chapter counselor and leadership event faculty.



**Who has influenced you most as a leader?** "The young Marines who served with me over the years. ... The selfless service and dedication to their brothers that they exhibited every day in war inspires me to continue to lead and serve in their honor. Specifically, my Marines, Corporal Kyle Powell and Corporal Jose Galvan, who gave their lives so others would live. I seek to earn their sacrifice every day."



## Andrew Clare, Ph.D., MIT '08

Engagement Manager, McKinsey & Company

**As a scientist with three aeronautics degrees from MIT,**

Andrew's desire to constantly make new discoveries and explore is second nature. Whether it's conducting a five-year study on piloting drones or researching ways to bring underrepresented minorities and women into the computer science field, Andrew embraces the chance to learn something new each day. Mentoring the SigEps at MIT and facilitating at events like Carlson helps him recharge when it's time to take a break. "The driving force behind my life's work is enabling others to grow, develop and succeed," says Andrew.

**What SigEp lessons do you apply in your career?** "Helping corporate boards and top management teams as they navigate change is remarkably similar to my experience with SigEp. There is a need for change to keep up with a dynamic marketplace (or fraternity system), yet many times there is a fear to deviate from the status quo. SigEp has never been afraid to embrace positive change, and the lessons I learned through SigEp help me succeed every day."



## Brian Corvino, Moravian '02

Senior Vice President and Managing Partner of Global Consulting Services Division, Decision Resources Group

**Brian wants to help people live longer, healthier, happier and more meaningful lives.**

He's delivering affordable advances to patients in the health care industry and is a contributing author for a textbook on the subject. Two years after college, Brian used his experience starting a new SigEp chapter to establish a pharmaceutical consulting firm with several dozen SigEp employees and his former chapter counselor as his business partner. When they sold the firm to Decision Resources Group, Brian took a leadership role in the new company. PharmaVoice Magazine named him one of the most inspiring people in the life



sciences industry, and he's a regular lecturer at top business schools. Brian's personal mission of improving lives is also fulfilled as a mentor to rising leaders, in his field and his Fraternity.

**Who has made a big impact in your life?** "My chapter counselor, Phil Patrick, Rutgers '88, was not only a personal mentor and friend, but also someone who helped me establish my career and showed me the true meaning of mentorship and giving back."



## Troy Hanson, Valparaiso '02

Commander Naval Surface Forces, Pacific, N43 Fleet Maintenance Schedules, Department of the Navy | Lieutenant Commander, THIRD Fleet Headquarters, Navy Reserve

**Troy leads the effort to schedule maintenance and modernization of every surface ship in the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet.**

He's spent his career serving the Navy as a civilian and as a Navy reserve officer with deployments to the Western Pacific, Kuwait and the Horn of Africa. His ability to manage complex undertakings has earned him numerous medals, including the Joint Service Commendation. Between deployments, Troy can be found volunteering with chapters throughout San Diego. He was recently named balanced man steward for one and has served as chapter counselor for two others. His zeal for training the next generation of leaders goes way back: Troy was part of the team that developed EDGE, and he's led Southern California's program for more than 10 years.

**Why is mentoring a passion for you?** "If I can be that mentor that helps a student figure out what he should do with his degree, or what he should put on his resume, or how to handle a difficult situation at home, then I am fulfilled."



## Kevin Fleming, Ph.D., Loyola Marymount '00

Dean of Instruction and Associate Faculty, Norco College | CEO, Telos Educational Services | Scholar | Author | Public Speaker | Entrepreneur

**Kevin's appetite for knowledge is insatiable.** The first in his family to graduate from college, he's earned five degrees, written two books and contributed to more than 40 publications on education and career training. He advocates rethinking post-high school education to ensure students are prepared to succeed in the workforce. He's even produced an animated video on the subject that's gotten more than one million views online. With his enthusiasm for teaching, Kevin has found countless ways to give back to SigEp. He facilitates at EDGE and Carlson and has been a mentor for three chapters. As a certified etiquette trainer, he also conducts presentations for brothers. How does he balance out the Sound Mind, Sound Body equation? Five marathons and one triathlon ... so far.

**What philosopher resonates for you?** "Aristotle once wrote that all living things have a 'telos,' an unfulfilled potential. His example was that the telos of an acorn is to become an oak tree, but not all do. I dedicate myself to helping every student, brother and organization fulfill their telos."

## Dale Hunter, South Florida '04

Broker, Guardian Real Estate Services LLC | Entrepreneur

**Two years after college, Dale became Century 21's top-producing realtor in South Tampa.**

Since then, he's launched his own real estate brokerage firm, a title company and a property management company with a portfolio of more than 300 properties. Dale credits his success with creating business opportunities that align with his passions. He's currently renovating a historic building for Rock Brothers Brewing Company, of which he's part owner. The award-winning craft brewery collaborates with bands like Hootie and the Blowfish, 311 and Umphrey's McGee for each beer brewed. A volunteer and mentor for brothers at South Florida,



Dale says his own chapter counselor, Kevin O'Connor, Loras '88, taught him the importance of investing in the leaders of tomorrow.

**What gets you out of bed each day?**

**"My 2-year-old literally wakes me up every morning, but I stay motivated by striving to be a role model for my children. I want them to see the importance of living a balanced life. I try to attend and participate in every event in my children's lives while balancing my workloads."**



## Ryan Jacobsen, San Diego '00

Regional Sales Manager, Dot Foods |  
Co-founder and Chief Financial Officer,  
Jacobsen Global | Strategic Planner |  
Business Developer | Road Warrior

### The ideals of Sound Mind and Sound Body resonated

with Ryan as soon as he learned about SigEp. He became a founding member of his chapter and continues to pursue these virtues in his life. He manages sales and logistics in the Western states for one of the nation's largest foodservice redistribution companies, and he's CFO of a start-up consulting firm that has helped clients land multimillion-dollar government contracts. Ryan brings the same level of intensity to maintaining a sound body. He's an Advanced Open Water Diver and mixes his exercise routine with sailing and snow skiing. An embodiment of the Balanced Man Ideal, Ryan shares his experience with young SigEps at San Diego, where he's AVC president. A member of the first class of Ruck Scholars, he has returned most every year since 2005 as program faculty.

**What SigEp lessons do you apply in your career?** "Recruiting and retaining the best talent is a huge challenge in the business world today, and I'm grateful SigEp provided an introduction to a recruitment process and tools that I still use."



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## Doug Jones Jr., Texas-Austin '05

Principal and Executive Vice President,  
Colliers International

**During his senior year, Doug was an unpaid intern at a real estate firm.** A mere five years later, he'd become a partner. Doug later teamed with two other partners to bring one of the world's largest commercial real estate firms back to Austin. He's negotiated more than 250 leases and was among the city's top 10 brokers four years running. He happily advises new brokers and hires SigEp interns to expose them to the business. Doug also remains connected to the Fraternity as a volunteer in a variety of areas, from mentoring undergraduates in recruitment to organizing his chapter's annual alumni reunion. Passionate about

philanthropy, Doug recently joined the emerging leaders board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Austin and works to raise funds to support Explore Austin, a mentoring and activity program for underserved youth.

**What inspires you to invest so heavily in your community?**

"What is the point of making money and being successful if you don't share it with everyone around you? Helping those who didn't have the fortune to have been raised, trained and mentored by amazing family, friends and brothers—it's just what you do."



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## Benjamin Lakin, Ph.D., Maine '07

Senior Scientist, Smith & Nephew,  
Advanced Healing Technologies  
Division

**Ben is passionate about improving the quality of people's lives.** He's also an avid triathlete and has combined his interests to develop new products for the sports medicine industry. He developed new diagnostics and treatments for osteoarthritis in grad school and is now working on advanced materials for medical implants to help patients return faster to daily activities and favorite sports. Outside the lab, the opportunity to set goals and practice multiple sports keeps Ben focused on



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triathlons, and he gets similarly fired up about helping others tackle new challenges. He sees mentoring graduate students and colleagues as essential to his role as a new industry scientist and is a volunteer for two SigEp chapters.

**What personal philosophy do you live by?** "I try not to have any major regrets in life. I try to make conscientious decisions, think through my underlying passions and ensure that those desires are met. Life is too short to be regretting things or missing out."

## Joshua Lee, Valparaiso '98

National Trial Lawyer and Partner,  
Schiff Hardin LLP

**Josh is an award-winning trial lawyer and advisor** for executives at companies ranging from startups to international corporations. He helps clients manage risk, protect interests and create opportunities for growth. He's regularly called on to reshape and set the pace of litigation.

He has also been lauded for his long record of taking on pro bono cases and has worked with several legal aid organizations in the Chicago area. "Protecting persons who are often marginalized is what ensures that, ultimately, everyone's rights are protected," says Josh. His ongoing service as a SigEp volunteer is also reflective of his desire to make a personal impact on the lives of others. A former district governor in Michigan, Josh currently serves as president of the Indiana Zeta AVC and is a Carlson facilitator.

**What drives you to give back?** "Early in my life, my mother taught me that it is important to lend help where you can. She made sure I understood that we had, at times, relied on the help of others, and that we all have an obligation to help each other reach our potential. Doing well by doing good helps me keep perspective and balance."



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## Christopher McCaw, Appalachian State '03

Senior Director, S2S Global Operations, Premier Inc.

**Chris has helped build and lead** one of Premier's fastest growing and most successful ventures. The company works to reduce healthcare costs and improve quality of care at more than 3,400 U.S. hospitals and 110,000 providers. Chris' team reduces the cost of healthcare supplies, while increasing standardization and improving supply chain transparency and stability. "It's involved the most strategic of work, right down to making copies at midnight. There has been nothing better, professionally, than seeing it win," says Chris. But he says fun is spending



time with family, connecting with friends and giving back to the community. Chris is a Little League coach, a director of SigEp National Housing, and a frequent facilitator at Conclave, Carlson and Life After College.

**How do you practice life-long learning?** "I've found that one of the best approaches is to diversify those around you. I've done the

MBA thing; it's very valuable. In recent years, I've made it a point to connect with my older relatives and friends. Learning has been about taking the time to put 'business' aside and to talk to as many people as I can on a personal level."

## Jay Rivera, Babson '99

Senior Program Manager, Intuit | Public Speaker | Consultant | Coach

**Jay's team led the launch of mobile banking for Bank of America.** They also guided the company through the Merrill Lynch and U.S. Trust mergers. Today, Jay is helping Intuit sharpen its focus, serving as the program manager for the divestiture of its QuickBase business unit. Jay's work has impacted millions through better programs, applications and services. He also finds immense satisfaction in reaching out to people on a more personal level. "There exists in me a genuine desire to pay it forward," says Jay, explaining that being mentored by others inspires him to do the same. He's a founding board member for a youth orchestra and began volunteering with SigEp right after graduation, serving as



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AVC president for two chapters in the Boston area. Family is also central to Jay's life, and coaching his son's soccer team remains a top priority.

**What lessons from your undergraduate SigEp experience do you still carry with you today?**

"Embrace opportunities and make the most of them. Sometimes, the easiest chances afforded to you can be the least satisfying, while the hardest breaks to get are those that can be the most challenging, yet leading to the greatest success, reward and personal satisfaction."

## Jacob Mullins, Yale '05

CEO and Founder, Exitround.com

**As a founding member of his chapter,** Jacob discovered a passion and talent for forming organizations that help people achieve common goals. His college mentor **Bill Tragos, Washington in St. Louis '56**, gave him confidence that he could succeed, no matter how big the challenge. As an undergraduate, Jacob and a classmate used that mindset to start a nutritional supplement business. Today, he runs Exitround.com, a marketplace that connects buyers and sellers of tech companies. A Tragos Quest to Greece Scholar, Jacob has had the chance to guide the next generation as an alumni mentor for the program. He's also facilitated at Carlson and paid forward his mentoring experience as a chapter counselor.



**How do you continue to challenge yourself?** "I have a personal end-of-year ritual where I take time to evaluate each individual part of my life—body, mind, spirit, relationships, career, finance—to determine whether I grew or declined that year and set up the coming year for growth in each area."

## Jim Roach, Connecticut '99

Executive Vice President and Head of Sales, Natixis Global Asset Management Canada LP

**"I have an internal drive that I can't turn off,"** says Jim.

"I want to win, and I want to be successful. I have tasted failure, and I don't like it."

Jim started out in entry-level sales with Natixis Global Asset Management and worked his way up to sales desk manager and senior vice president of their Boston headquarters. When the firm acquired NexGen Financial, Jim was tapped to lead the growth of the Canadian asset management company.

Jim also likes to help others win and believes that service to his community has broadened his worldview. He serves on the board of advisors for YMCA of Greater Boston and Community Works Services. He's also a team captain for Best Buddies International and a mentor for new regional directors and young SigEps at Carlson.

**What makes a great leader?**

"Integrity."

**What personal philosophy do you live by?** "It is really simple: always do the right thing and outwork everyone else."



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## Marcus Robinson, Dayton '99

Communications Director and Senior Advisor, Penn State

**Marcus lives to learn and explore new ideas.** And whether it's at work or after-hours, he's passionate about sharing lessons learned and helping those around him



achieve their best. On the job, he leads communications and provides counsel to key decision-makers at Penn State on issues affecting the long-term success of the university. In his free time, he puts his communication skills to use as a facilitator at EDGE, Ruck, Carlson and Life After College. Marcus also volunteers as a district governor and serves as a member of the Ritual Task Force.

### How have you continued to challenge yourself since graduating?

"It is deceptively easy to fall into routine in life, particularly post-graduation. I seek out opportunities to stretch and be challenged, and I surround myself with people who do the same. I sprint toward the discomfort of being outside of my comfort zone. It's a mindset that is among the great gifts I gained in SigEp."

## John Schuyler, Western Michigan '00

Strategic Sales Executive, Nike, Inc.

**John is an athlete.** And he brings an athlete's mindset to all areas of his life as he ensures his many teams are always moving toward their goals. He leads strategic sales for Nike, coaches undergraduate SigEps in recruitment, and advises the national Fraternity on recruitment and member development. He finds motivation in the words of his favorite historical figure, Abraham Lincoln. "'Whatever you are, be a good one.' For me, that has meant adopting a standard of excellence in every job I've had, from retail sales associate to my current role. Doing stand-out work that produces tangible results is the best career-building ad campaign you can mount."

**What SigEps have impacted you as a leader?** "Darron Trobetsky, Indiana of Pennsylvania '94, agreed to be my mentor when I was an undergraduate. A Nike employee, he helped me understand the skills they valued in candidates, enabling me to bring focus to my development and tell my story in a way that resonated. Today, we are colleagues, our families are good friends and I continue to seek his good advice."



## Adam Seiber, Murray State '02

Co-founder and Managing Director, Aether | Entrepreneur

**Adam is known for finding resources to fill unmet needs.**

He and his team are helping government agencies and multinational corporations meet their economic, environmental and social goals through sustainable infrastructure development. And whether he's helping clients develop a better energy profile and become more sustainable or reconnecting SigEp alumni with the Fraternity, the results are undeniable. As a founding member and president of the 1901 Club of New York City, he's created new opportunities for alumni networking and personal growth. He's also made it easy for area alumni to get involved as career mentors and facilitators at Life After College. A mentor himself, Adam advises two chapters on operations and career planning and shares his insights as a regular facilitator at Ruck and Carlson.

**What drives you?** "Making a difference. My company is fortunate to work on projects that help our customers' bottom line while making the world a better place. And that extends to SigEp. Though I'll never be able to repay the Fraternity for all it has given me, it's fun to try."



## Alexander Straatmann, Nebraska-Kearney '00

Counsel for Constituent Services to U.S. Congressman Adrian Smith | Captain, United States Army Reserve | Deputy Command Judge Advocate, 561st Regional Support Group

**Alex says SigEp taught him to be selfless,** a trait that is present in all aspects of his life. As a young attorney, he saw his country in two wars and joined the Army Reserve. He's been decorated several times

for his service and also brought his legal talents to the U.S. Congress. Since graduating, Alex has volunteered continuously with SigEp, facilitating at EDGE and mentoring two chapters as chapter counselor. The result? A total of five Buc Cups. Alex is also a past president of his town's children's museum board, and he was elected to serve on the board of education in his childhood district in 2014.

**What has kept you involved with SigEp?** "I believe our Fraternity gives young men the best possible opportunity to succeed after college and throughout the rest of their lives. It is deeply fulfilling for me to watch our graduates leave college and conquer whatever challenge they choose to accept. I am humbled and awestruck by their success."



# SigEp will be out in front

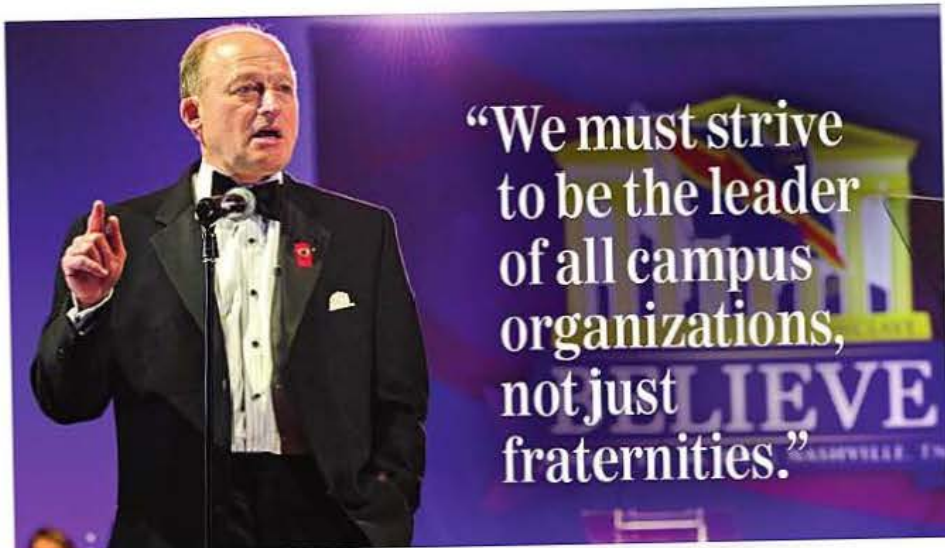
Dear brothers and friends,

SigEp embarked on a brand new chapter in its storied history this fall. At the 54th Grand Chapter Conclave, new Grand President Rick Bennet, Central Missouri '74, shared a challenge: "We can no longer be content with being the best fraternity, or even the best organization in a struggling Greek system. We must strive to be the leader of all campus organizations, not just fraternities."

Our resolve to be the best is making waves in the collegiate world. SigEp is receiving praise from higher education because we are genuine in our partnership efforts and we provide young college men with environments for development that can't be found anywhere else.

With over 15,000 brothers in our 230 chapters, we are among the largest national undergraduate fraternities. This fall will be no exception: more than 4,000 new brothers will have joined by the end of the academic term, making 2015 another banner year for SigEp membership.

Our charge is giving these young brothers the tools they need to succeed in college and after graduation. The Balanced Man Program (BMP) and SigEp's other regional and national leadership events provide invaluable experiences and learning opportunities at a critical point in their development. These lessons learned and friendships formed will last a lifetime and prove to be the foundation of a happy and successful life.



Grand President Bennet addresses the Grand Chapter after his installation in Nashville.

### Partnering with higher education

The SigEp experience is needed on today's college campus. Of students' time in college, a mere 10 percent is spent in the classroom. We exist to fill that remaining 90 percent and equip our men with the skills and habits they need in college and beyond. With a focus on scholarship, leadership and life skills, SigEp teaches brothers to lead and speak in front of a crowd, work effectively with their peers and achieve their highest academic potential.

"I dream of a time when every university wants a SigEp chapter because they recognize the value we add," Grand President Bennet said in his acceptance speech. "Because they know that not only do we add to their educational process, but we can also be the change agent that leads with a safe and responsible role on their campus."

Our potential and relevance to higher education has been especially apparent to me through our recolonization efforts at Virginia Tech this fall. Senior student affairs officers and faculty voiced their appreciation for SigEp's willingness to

partner and advance the mutual aims of SigEp and Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech's senior associate vice president for student affairs, Frank Shushok, wholeheartedly approves of SigEp's return to his campus: "We fully expect the outcome will be a chapter designed to build leaders, learners and the most decent of human beings."

In keeping with Grand President Bennet's challenge to us, we will be the leader of all student organizations at Virginia Tech. The same will be true at Florida when we return this spring.

This December, SigEp's National Board of Directors will meet with university presidents and vice presidents from across the country to strengthen the Fraternity's relationships in higher education and the value we provide to every campus hosting a SigEp chapter.

### Preparing brothers for life after college

The SigEp alumni network is impressive and something to be proud of. The SigEp connections run deep in countless industries across the globe. We are just beginning to realize the potential impact our alumni can have on the professional





Brothers receive professional mentoring at the Chicago Life After College in the photos above. The 2015 program was also held in Atlanta, Dallas and New York City.



preparedness and future success of undergraduate brothers. Through our Life After College (LAC) program, alumni are providing young SigEps, especially those nearing graduation, with critical resources and perspective, even job opportunities, that allow them to effectively focus on their future.

During this two-day leadership event, brothers connect with career coaches, sharpen interview skills and explore professional opportunities that await them after college. Sessions on personal finance, self-reliance and personal branding help brothers maintain life balance and stay true to their values while pursuing professional goals. LAC addresses the knowledge gap for undergraduates in a climate where only 23 percent of employers feel that new graduates are prepared to apply their skills in the real world.

The exceptional talent and strong values found in SigEp men are being recognized by corporations across the country. More than 50 national and regional companies signed up for our fall 2015 LAC programs. These organizations participated in our SigEp-exclusive career fairs, and many helped lead our educational sessions.

Since the program's inception in 2013, we've reached over 1,700 brothers with critical professional exposure, career coaching and training. Over 82 percent of last year's attendees said the program offers professional development opportunities they can't find on their campuses. Our only challenge in providing more brothers with these opportunities is funding.

### Establishing a clear blueprint for member development

The 54th Conclave was another historic gathering for SigEp. Of the many milestones we reached, one of them came from the Grand Chapter's legislative floor.

In an almost unanimous vote, our undergraduates committed to making the Balanced Man Program SigEp's official and only blueprint for developing brothers. The BMP is the centerpiece of the SigEp experience, and it is the vehicle that is catapulting us forward as the leading campus organization at universities across the nation. Our undergraduates emphasized this while casting their historic votes.

Undergraduates and volunteers have asked for more resources to improve implementation of the program, and our



Brothers connect with potential employers and industry mentors at a Conclave career fair.





Steve Bishop, Indiana '78, facilitates at the inaugural Cox Institute.



Above: Scott Haddock, Tennessee-Martin '98, guides brothers through a study of corporate brand identities during a Conclave educational session on personal branding.

national Fraternity is strongly committed to supporting them in every way. Chapter leaders on the ground can expect additional education, resources and technology to help them better manage the progressive challenges that guide each brother from freshman year to graduation.

### Equipping our chapters through volunteer training

Our Grand President from 2013-2015, Phillip A. Cox, Indiana '84, carried the standard of SigEp with passion. As a lifelong volunteer, Phil understood the critical importance of SigEp's volunteers. He has often said, "Behind every great SigEp chapter is a group of dedicated alumni and volunteers." To honor Phil, his brothers joined forces at Conclave to launch the Phillip A. Cox Volunteer Institute, a series of volunteer training events around the country inspired by Phil's life and legacy. The institutes are modeled after the "Drive-In" initiative that Phil spearheaded last year.

These one-day seminars address the need for accessible volunteer training by allowing volunteers with careers and

busy family lives to attend an event in their area. There, they can connect and collaborate with other nearby alumni and address shared challenges through discourse and training.

This year's Cox Institutes were held in six cities around the country from September to November. We hosted the inaugural institute in Bloomington, Ind., the home of Phil's Indiana Beta Chapter. We are excited that the first institutes reached nearly 150 volunteers, and we are even more thrilled that this number will grow exponentially in the coming years as we get closer to our \$1 million endowment goal.

Each SigEp chapter depends on a strong, well-informed volunteer base for continuity and long-term success. Our Grand Treasurer Chris Bittman, Colorado '85, articulated the importance well: "It's absolutely critical to the health of our chapters to have a strong volunteer group. In fact, our very future at SigEp depends on it."

### Modeling the way

Sigma Phi Epsilon has always strived to model the way for others. We haven't hesitated to challenge the prevailing mindset. We haven't hesitated to be different. Whether it was removing racial and

religious restrictions to membership in the 1950s or creating a new standard for development by launching the Balanced Man Program in the 1990s, SigEp has been at the forefront of the fraternity world.

Higher education and Greek life face challenges today that they have never seen before. There is a clear need for leadership and for someone to do things differently. That's a role we haven't shied away from. As we've done since our founding, SigEp will be out in front, even if we're standing alone, modeling the way for others and working with our campus partners to build balanced men.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "BC Warren Jr."

**Brian C. Warren Jr.**  
Virginia '04  
Chief Executive Officer



## 2015-2017 National Board of Directors



**Grand President**  
**Richard W. Bennet III**

Central Missouri '74  
Co-Chief Executive Officer,  
CCA Global Partners



**Grand Treasurer**  
**Christopher L. Bittman**

Colorado '85  
Partner and Chief  
Investment Officer, Perella  
Weinberg Partners



**Grand Secretary**  
**Thomas B. Jelke**

Florida International  
'90  
President and CEO, t.jelke  
solutions



**David R. Calderon**

CalPoly-Pomona '88  
Attorney at Law and  
Partner, Barth Calderon,  
LLP



**Garry C. Kief**

Southern California '70  
President and CEO, Stiletto  
Entertainment



**Billy D. Maddalon**

North Carolina  
State '90  
Managing Owner, Unique  
Southern Estates



**Daniel W. McVeigh**

Texas Wesleyan '90  
Senior Vice President,  
Investments and Wealth  
Management Advisor,  
Merrill Lynch



**Bradley C. Nahrstadt**

Monmouth '89  
President and Managing  
Partner, Lipe Lyons  
Murphy Nahrstadt &  
Pontikis Ltd.



**Victor K. Wilson**

Georgia Renaissance  
Vice President for Student  
Affairs, University of  
Georgia



**Student Director**  
**Jeff Back**

Cincinnati '18



**Student Director**  
**Jack Emery**

Arizona '17



**Student Director**  
**Riley Shearer**

Montana State '17

## University of Georgia VP is SigEp's newest National Director

The University of Georgia's vice president for student affairs, Victor K. Wilson, Georgia Renaissance, is the first to fill one of two newly established National Director roles reserved for higher education professionals who understand the importance of the out-of-classroom experience and the holistic development of college students today. SigEp's Grand Chapter voted to create the new roles at the 54th Conclave. The legislation granted the National Board of Directors the authority to recruit and appoint two directors who offer unique expertise relevant to higher education.

Wilson was elected to the Fraternity's board on September 3, 2015. As a National Director, he will help the Fraternity set and achieve strategic goals related to student safety, healthy relationships, academic success, professional preparedness, diversity, communication and leadership.

As vice president for student affairs at Georgia, Wilson serves as the university's chief student affairs officer, overseeing a student affairs division of 19 departments and nearly 700 staff members dedicated to enhancing the learning environment for students. He serves on the President's Cabinet, the

Provost Advisory Council, the Senior Advisory Group, and is a member of the University Council.

Wilson has three decades of experience in higher education administration and student affairs. He is a strong advocate for students and student development, particularly the inclusion and success of students from historically under-represented groups. Wilson has authored numerous scholarly articles and given presentations on issues of race, ethics, crisis management and staff development in higher education.

Wilson has also held leadership roles in several other national organizations, including the National Orientation Directors Association and the American College Personnel Association.

His involvement with SigEp began in the late '90s when he assisted in the Fraternity's return to the Georgia campus. Since then, he has helped SigEp engage with higher education as a chapter volunteer at Georgia and Charleston, as a member of the Residential Learning Community Task Force, and as program faculty at Carlson and Conclave.



# Honor of Philias celebrates devotion to fallen brother's family and community

By BEN FORD

The Honor of Philias recognizes SigEps who have demonstrated the cardinal principle of brotherly love through exceptional acts of unselfish service. The 2015 award was given to the brothers of Southeast Missouri State, who rallied around the family of their late chapter brother **Bobby Christman, '17**, and ensured his legacy would aid others in need. Christman, whose story was shared in last issue's In Memoriam, was tragically shot while defending his girlfriend during an armed robbery earlier this year.

Christman was the epitome of a Balanced Man. He was a gifted athlete who helped found the university's wrestling club and became a model student as a member of SigEp. He was passionate about the Fraternity and was elected recruitment chairman of his chapter.

When brothers learned of his critical injury, they rushed to the hospital to join his family by his side. It was winter break, and many drove through the night. SigEps filled the hospital waiting area and corridors as everyone awaited news of his condition. When the hopelessness of the situation became clear, they kept vigil as Christman's family said their final goodbyes.

Even in death, Christman's brothers remained at his side. The entire chapter served as pallbearers and honor guard at Christman's funeral, carrying him to his final resting place. Chapter President **Aaron Clite, '16**, delivered the eulogy and shared a quote Christman had sent to his brothers before his death: "Get control over your life. Be a better person to others. Be productive and love life, because you only have it for so long. So don't waste it."

Moved by Christman's life of strength and service, the chapter did everything they could to support his family,



Southeast Missouri State brothers accept the Honor of Philias and a letter from the parents of fallen chapter brother Bobby Christman, '17. The chapter was recognized for its exceptional acts of service to Christman's family, community and legacy.

commemorate his legacy and ensure that their fallen brother would forever impact the lives of others.

General **James T. Conway, Southeast Missouri State '69**, former Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps and a SigEp Citation recipient, visited the campus to comfort his chapter brothers in their time of grief. He encouraged them to find a way to honor Christman, and they decided to build a memorial scholarship as a tribute.

The chapter and alumni vigorously raised funds to establish a permanent endowment in Christman's memory. Online giving sites, social media and word of mouth were used to generate support. They sent out letters to alumni and hosted numerous fundraising events to establish the Bobby Christman Memorial Fund. They quickly collected over \$40,000, with donations coming from the school's athletic department, the Greek community and SigEps from more than 25 different chapters. The new endowment will provide an annual scholarship to a deserving undergraduate brother and serve as a permanent way for Christman's family and friends to honor his life.

Determined to make an even greater impact, the chapter committed to go beyond raising funds. In life, Christman had given of himself to others unreservedly. Because of his selfless decision to become an organ donor, even in death, he has continued to give hope to five others struggling for life. This ultimate act of giving inspired his brothers to become organ donors themselves. In addition, they promoted organ donor awareness by organizing events and sharing Christman's story. Securing hundreds of organ donor commitments from their university community, the chapter ensured Christman's legacy will be felt in an untold number of communities.

"Any soul fortunate enough to receive the gift of life from one of these donors will be another person saved because of Bobby," said Past Grand President **Steve Shanklin, Murray State '70**, as he commended the chapter's efforts at Conclave.

The Southeast Missouri State Chapter accepted the 2015 Honor of Philias at the Conclave Brotherhood Luncheon, with the moment serving as another meaningful tribute to Christman's life. After inviting the chapter to join him on



stage, Shanklin surprised the brothers with a letter from Christman's parents, Bob and Dawn. Unable to attend Conclave, the two wrote, "We knew pretty quickly that we had inherited 95 sons. We felt their arms around us and their support for our family."

The Honor of Philias award was established in 1989 by Past Grand President and Order of the Golden Heart recipient **Jack D. Wheeler, North Texas '61**, and his wife, Kate. Their endowment provided a \$5,000 gift toward the Bobby Christman Memorial Fund.

"Of all the fraternities he knew, we are the only one that chose brotherly love over brotherhood in our founding principles," said Shanklin of Wheeler. "Many times, these terms are seen and used interchangeably. But Jack stated that brotherhood looks inward toward its brothers, while brotherly love looks outward to embrace all humanity in its charge."

*The Honor of Philias is given biennially at each Grand Conclave to a chapter or individuals that have powerfully exhibited the Fraternity's cardinal principle of brotherly love. The award itself is a crystal obelisk on a granite base permanently displayed at the Fraternity's Headquarters at Zollinger House in Richmond, and recipients are given an exact replica.*

*Past recipients of the award have included brothers who cared for a member seriously injured in a car accident in 2013, helped a new member diagnosed with cancer in 2011, supported a brother who tragically lost his eyesight in 2009, aided in Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in 2007, empowered Iraqi college students in 2005 and performed many other acts of kindness stretching back to 1989. The award has encouraged and inspired SigEp brothers to extraordinary acts of brotherly love, just as Past Grand President Wheeler and his wife, Kate, intended.*



Brothers sing the SigEp Anthem at Christman's gravesite with his family on the day of his funeral.



Students from across campus left handwritten notes, flowers and condolences at a memorial for Christman in the Southeast Missouri State Chapter house.

**"Get control over your life. Be a better person to others. Be productive and love life, because you only have it for so long. So don't waste it."**  
 ~ Bobby Christman, Southeast Missouri State '17



## SigEps lay wreath for fallen brother in Nashville

By **AARON JAY LEDESMA**, Marquette '14

Conclave is known as a time for SigEp brothers and friends to gather to celebrate, and in some cases, to celebrate the lives of our departed brothers. At the Nashville National Cemetery, SigEp veterans and active duty service members gathered to honor Army Lt. Col. **Kim S. Orlando**, Baylor '82.

Upon arrival, the group of SigEps marched together toward Orlando's final resting place. When the formation came to a halt, U.S. Navy Reserve Lt. Cmdr. **Troy Hanson**, Valparaiso '02, began the ceremony and spoke about Orlando's character and life.

"His brothers-in-arms from the 101st Airborne Division remember him as a man who led his soldiers personally," said Hanson. "He took the time to learn each of his 400 soldiers' names."

Orlando was the commanding officer of the 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Airborne Division. He was killed while attempting to negotiate with armed men who were congregating on a road near a mosque after curfew in Iraq.

After sharing part of Orlando's story with the group, Hanson called upon Marine Corps veteran **Renato Villacorte**, CalPoly-Pomona '91, and Air



Force veteran **Adrian Edsall**, Middle Tennessee State '02, to place a wreath at Orlando's headstone.

Brother Orlando was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. "He was the true definition of

Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love," said Hanson. Those present also took a moment to remember other young men who left this Fraternity far earlier than expected.

The following is a partial listing of SigEps by state of the member's home chapter who have passed away in recent months.

Names in red are national volunteers or those who have received national recognition for their service such as the Order of the Golden Heart, Volunteer of the Year, Distinguished Alumnus or Citation.

Email obituary notices to [communications@sigep.net](mailto:communications@sigep.net) or send to: In Memoriam, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Read or submit remembrances of SigEp brothers on the website [www.sigep.org/news/inmemoriam.html](http://www.sigep.org/news/inmemoriam.html)

### Undergraduates

**Jonathan J. Chavez**, California-Riverside '15

### California

**Bruce S. Campbell**, Cal State-San Jose '67  
**R. Stephen Waldeck**, Cal State-Chico '69

### Colorado

**E. Ray Agutter**, Colorado '61

### Florida

**Steven F. Clark**, Jacksonville '63

### Georgia

**Mark G. Wolfe**, Georgia Tech '86

### Illinois

**Robert W. Fernstrom Jr.**, Bradley '62

### Indiana

**David T. Bertorello**, Evansville '89 (Distinguished Alumnus)

**John R. Bowen**, Ball State '63

**Mark S. Combs**, Ball State '72

**Daniel E. Farley**, Indiana State '64

**G. William Fox**, Ball State '57

**Gary A. Hunt**, Indiana '74

**George Kurteff**, Indiana State '56

**Richard P. Mory**, Indiana '53

### Iowa

**Gary E. Sutton**, Iowa State '64

### Kansas

**Joel A. Blount**, Emporia State '50

**Irven W. Hayden Jr.**, Kansas '47

**Donald R. Johnson**, Kansas State '65

**Terry G. Kotouc**, Kansas State '78

**James F. Snyder**, Washburn '57

### Maryland

**Lawrence K. Saunders**, Johns Hopkins '64

### Massachusetts

**Werner E. Sievers**, MIT '52

**Dana G. Sousa**, WPI '87

### Michigan

**J. William Brimacombe**, Michigan State '69

**Justin M. Fitch**, Michigan Tech '05

### Mississippi

**Christopher F. Byrd**, Mississippi '10

### Missouri

**William B. Fritts**, Missouri State '73

**Cecil D. Gaines**, Missouri '62

**Christopher L. Norgren**, Missouri-S&T '07

### Nebraska

**James M. Gorman**, Creighton '14

### New Hampshire

**Bruce H. Hasenkamp**, Dartmouth '60 (Order of the Golden Heart, Past Grand President)

### New York

**Daniel N. Csizmar**, SUNY-Buffalo '64

### North Carolina

**John H. Bunch**, North Carolina '55

**Scott A. Wilson**, North Carolina State '74

### Ohio

**Adam L. Bednar**, Ohio State '52

**Kelly W. Boe**, Miami (Ohio) '81



# Remembering two lifelong volunteers

By REV. RAY ACKERMAN, OKLAHOMA '77, National Chaplain



**David T. Bertorello**  
Evansville '89  
1966 – 2015

After graduation, David Bertorello worked for SigEp

as a regional director, traveling Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. He went on to volunteer with his Evansville chapter and was appointed district governor in Indiana. Bertorello facilitated at EDGE since the program's inception and attended every Carlson Leadership Academy since 1985. He was a loyal and generous donor to the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation and a member of the Board of Governors giving society. He was named a SigEp Distinguished Alumnus in 2014.

Outside of SigEp, Bertorello was a CPA and owner of BTS Lending Corporation, a residential mortgage brokerage based in Indiana. In each of the past five years, he was recognized as one of the top residential mortgage originators in Indianapolis.

Somehow Bertorello managed to find the time to volunteer with other organizations like Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership, where he served as their Indiana corporate

president for the past 12 years as well as international chairperson for their national volunteer training institute.

On August 22, 2015, Bertorello married his long-time girlfriend and love of his life, Laura Burton.



**Bruce H. Hasenkamp**  
Dartmouth '60  
1938 – 2015

After graduating cum laude from Dartmouth, where he served as chapter president, Hasenkamp went

on to serve as an Army officer in Korea. While overseas, he acquired a deep appreciation for Korean culture and began collecting Korean art, especially ceramics. His collection became the largest outside Korea and is now housed at the University of Michigan Museum of Art.

After Hasenkamp returned from Korea, he attended Stanford Law School and graduated with honors. He practiced law in New York City before returning to Stanford as assistant dean of the law school.

In 1974, he moved to Washington, D.C., after being named director of the White House Fellowship program and served under Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter. Later, Hasenkamp held several other public affairs positions and served as president of a large San Francisco hospital charitable foundation.

Hasenkamp held many roles with SigEp during his lifetime. He was chapter counselor at two chapters and a district governor for several districts. He served on SigEp's National Board of Directors and was Grand President from 1991 to 1993. In 1983, brother Hasenkamp was inducted into the Order of the Golden Heart in recognition of his lifelong service to SigEp.

Although he had many accomplishments throughout his life, one of his greatest achievements came as a young undergraduate at the 1959 Grand Chapter Conclave, where he led the effort that passed legislation opening SigEp to members of any race, religion or creed.

Bruce was happily married for 41 years to his wife, Inta, who passed away in April. He is survived by his son, Peter Hasenkamp, Dartmouth '98, daughter-in-law Allison, and grandsons Evan and Tyce.

Marc T. Fanning  
Bowling Green  
State '82

David L. Kovacs  
Bowling Green  
State '88

Thomas A. Lothian  
Ohio State '52

William R. Mason  
Youngstown State '55

Donald E. Schmidt  
Toledo '50

## Oregon

Thomas N. Barry  
Oregon '52

Donald M. Bowman  
Oregon '52

George C. Wenzlaff  
Lewis & Clark '68

## Pennsylvania

Gregory V. Artuso  
LaSalle '13

Robert C. Barnes  
Pennsylvania State '63

David G. Fluharty Jr.  
Lehigh '52

John H. McGrail  
Pennsylvania '60

## Tennessee

Robert T. McBride  
Tennessee '57

Fred M. Milligan  
Middle Tennessee  
State '78

John W. Morton  
East Tennessee  
State '84

Keith D. Peterson  
Tennessee '68

Leonard E.  
Richardson  
East Tennessee  
State '63

J. Michael Rutledge  
Middle Tennessee  
State '79

Craig M. Schuff  
Tennessee Tech '07

Riley P. Scott  
East Tennessee  
State '14

## Texas

Robert O. Bowland  
Texas Christian '70

Matthew A.  
Ceniceros  
Texas-El Paso '02

William H.  
Hoffman III  
Texas-Austin '75

Samuel R. Kotara  
Texas Tech '92

Sidney A. Lanier  
Sam Houston '67

Jorge R. Lott  
Texas Christian '59

## Utah

Ken M. Odette  
Utah State '88

Brent E. Toolson  
Utah State '73

## Virginia

William S. Kerr  
Richmond '62

Herbert J. Smith  
Christopher Newport  
Renaissance

## Washington

Gregory G. Cowen  
Washington State '70

## Wisconsin

C. Warren Hovland  
Lawrence '40

Duane M. Konkol  
Wisconsin-Stevens  
Point '73

Douglas M. Koski  
Lawrence '89

Alan E. Marquardt  
Lawrence '59

Mark A. Rosecky  
Wisconsin-Stevens  
Point '76



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